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Amish Country News

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June 2012

Annual Towns & Villages Issue

Aaron & Jessica's Bird-In-Hand Buggy Ride

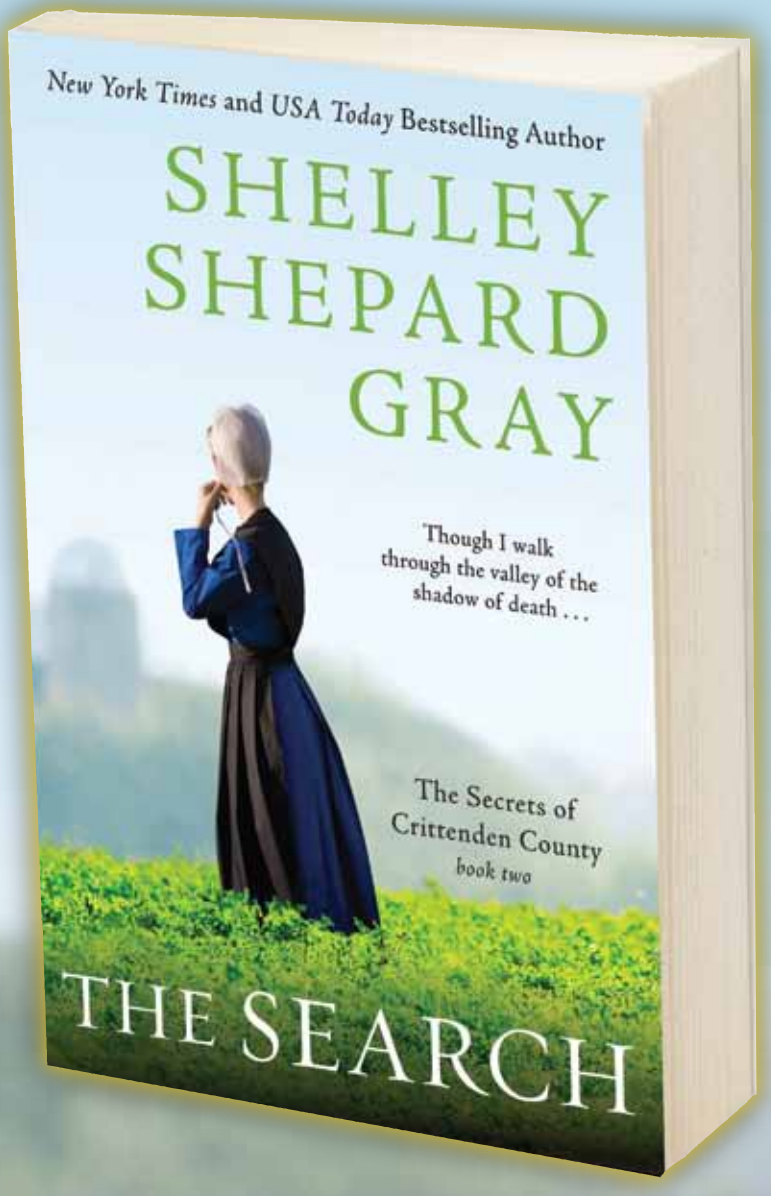
What's In a Name? Blue Ball to Intercourse

Celtic Fling & Highland Games at Mount Hope

State Museums Capture the Past for Visitors

From *New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestselling Author

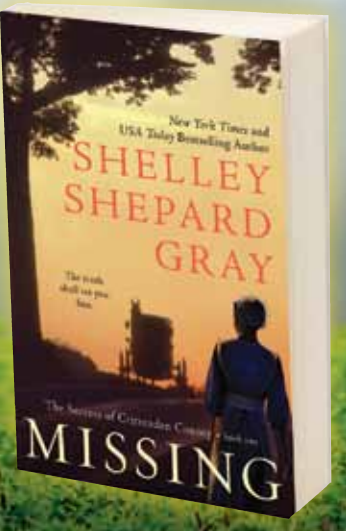
SHELLEY SHEPARD GRAY


New York Times and USA Today Bestselling Author
SHELLEY SHEPARD GRAY
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death . . .
The Secrets of Crittenden County
book two
THE SEARCH

THE SEARCH

The Secrets of Crittenden County
book two

In the midst of an investigation in the heart of Amish country, one young policeman finds love in the darkness...



Discover how it all started in Book One

The Secrets of Crittenden County Series

ShelleyShepardGray

AVON INSPIRE

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While driving along Route 30 in Lancaster County, you may see a few unfamiliar, if not unique, sites. You may catch a glimpse of some folks dressed a little unusually. You'll probably see a few horse-drawn carriages instead of cars. And, you'll undoubtedly notice the Dutch Haven windmill. This landmark building has been drawing thousands of visitors each week to Lancaster County for the past 50 years. Opening first as a restaurant in 1946, the Dutch Haven operated with great success with a world famous Shoo Fly pie recipe.

Today, the Dutch Haven staple is still "America's Best Shoo Fly Pie." All you have to do is pass through the door and you will be offered a sample taste of this famous pie—warmed and topped with whipped cream, just like it was always served in the restaurant, years ago.

Some 40,000 pies will be sold at the Dutch Haven this year alone. While most of these shoo fly pies are purchased over the counter, some are shipped UPS. Many pies are sold to faithful customers who have been buying them from Dutch Haven for over half a century!

Come Taste America's Best Shoo Fly Pie **FREE!**

As always at Dutch Haven, the famous pie that was featured in Time magazine is just part of the story. The windmill building now houses one of, if not the best, selections of primitive Amish pine furniture in the area. Corner cupboards, pie safes, chests, and shelves are all available. Hundreds of pieces of Amish woodcrafts fill what once were the dining rooms of this wonderful old building. In addition, thousands of other items from pot holders to collectibles, T-shirts, small wood crafts, local jams, jellies, and honey, and much more make Dutch Haven a true shopping experience.

Dutch Haven is open 7 days a week 9am-9pm. For more information about this Lancaster County landmark, call (717) 687-0111.

Visiting Dutch Haven - "the place that made Shoo Fly Pie famous" - will help to make your trip to Pennsylvania Dutch Country even more memorable.

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Meet Me in Bird-in-Hand
A Carriage Ride with Aaron & Jessica's

by Clinton Martin

Seeing Amish Country the way the Plain people do, from a horse-drawn carriage or buggy, is a sublime experience. Luckily the choice of, and where to, take a buggy ride is easy. In fact, this has been Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides calling for generations from the very same location along picturesque Route 340. Look for the little red covered bridge on the grounds of Plain & Fancy Farm, midway between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

Plain & Fancy first started welcoming visitors for authentic Amish Country experiences on the original farmstead fifty years ago which makes for the perfect starting point for Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides. Four different routes of varying lengths offer fascinating rides through all-Amish areas. Depending on the route you choose, you'll pass by Amish one-room schools, Amish family-owned shops and farm stands, full-blown Amish businesses such as a buggy "factory" -- even an Amish shoe store.

So how did Aaron & Jessica's get started, and why in Bird-in-Hand? Well the name says it all! Jessica, while just a little girl growing up in a Plain family, noticed how out-of-town visitors seemed to be so eager to experience what it was like to ride in a buggy. She wanted to share the experience and she asked her dad if they could offer rides in the family carriage. You might expect that Jessica's father was named Aaron, but such is not the case. Jessica did get permission to start the rides, but only if she took the family horse along with her, who, of course was Aaron! Like most of the horses working at Aaron & Jessica's Buggy rides, he was an American Standard Bred, but American Saddle Bred horses are also common carriage-pullers.

Bird-In-Hand was a fitting home for the buggy rides because it was where the family lived, so Jessica knew the roads well, and the neighborhood farms and shops. Today, years later, many of the drivers still walk to work from their homes close by. Take Mr. Benuel L. He is a school teacher at the local one-room schoolhouse, but when school's not in session he enjoys driving the buggies and meeting guests from all over the world.

There are dozens of other drivers – Amish, Mennonite, and Brethren men and women who know the PA Dutch culture and heritage not only personally, but are able to relate it well to visitors. Some hail from farming backgrounds, others from family businesses like horse stables and harness shops. Each one's insight is slightly different than the next.

"My Buggy Ride can be one of the highlights of your visit to Lancaster County. I think it's a must. In the summer, a ride is a great way to cool off." My dad says, "It's like sitting in the shade with a fan on... 409 air conditioning.... four wheels turning at nine miles an hour!" -Jessica of Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides

Visitors wanting just a taste of Amish Country can choose the "Cookie Run" ride. It takes about 20 minutes, and meanders through the scenic Amish Countryside along three miles of back roads. A brief stop is made at an Amish farm where you can buy homemade drinks and cookies.

The "Amish Town Tour" is a four-mile journey passing through an area of all-Amish farms as far as the eye can see. The ride takes 30 minutes, and includes passing by an Amish family business.

The "Amish Farm Tour" is a ride that includes a stop at a real Amish farm. You'll be able to get off the buggy and walk around in the barn. Currently there are cows and beautiful Clydesdale horses being raised there. Expect this ride to take about an hour.

Finally, the "Amish Journeys" ride is for visitors seeking a wonderfully authentic Amish trek. You'll tour multiple miles of Amish back roads, see multiple farms, and visit an Amish store. You'll be able to buy handmade Amish crafts, farm-fresh eggs, hearth-baked bread, and see plenty of farm animals. Along this route, you'll also pass by a real water-powered flour mill. This ride takes 75 to 90 minutes.

Whichever ride you choose, you're sure to enjoy an authentic Amish buggy ride with Aaron & Jessica's. Before or after your ride, you'll be able to relax in the nearby shaded picnic grove. And, of course the rest of Plain & Fancy Farm offers other wonderful activities to complete your day in Amish Country.

Aaron & Jessica's Buggy rides doesn't take reservations, but there is seldom a wait. Carriages leave continuously throughout the day, departing almost every ten minutes. You just show up, decide which route you would like to take, and you'll be seated on the next ride. Cash only, although there is an ATM on site. Even with all those carriages out on the back roads in and around Bird In Hand, Aaron & Jessica's probably puts the most miles on a buggy in all of Amish Country, about 10,000 miles a year!

Aaron & Jessica's Buggy Rides generally operates seven days a week, rain or shine, from dawn to dusk. Well, actually, from around 9:00 a.m. The horses need breakfast before they go to work after all! For more information, visit their website at www.amishbuggyrides.com. For group reservations of 20 or more, call 717-768-8400 ext. 221.

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"The Cookie Run" Ride, an Amish Wagon Ride to an Amish farm for homemade cookies, pretzels, and and drinks. Cannot be combined with other offers.
Open All Year
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The "WITNESS Farm" Location, Location, Location!

by Brad Igou

Whether it's a retail business, real estate, or a movie, there are three key ingredients to success....Location, Location, and finally, Location.

For the 1985 Harrison Ford movie WITNESS, Paramount Studio's location scouts had looked at 350 farms in Pennsylvania without finding the idyllic secluded setting the script demanded. Locations in Oregon were actually considered. During the final week of the search in 1984, the Paul and Emma Krantz farm was discovered, supposedly at the suggestion of an Amish neighbor. The Krantzes were given two days to accept the offer. Their three daughters wanted to know who was going to be in the movie. All Paul could remember was "some guy with a car name." Apparently the girls figured out it was Harrison Ford.

The barn interior is new to the WITNESS Tour this year.

Today, this farm is Amish-owned and not open to the public… with one exception. The Witness Movie Covered Bridge Tour takes small groups of 14 visitors to the isolated location to see where so many scenes of the Hollywood classic were filmed, including the inside of the "summer kitchen," the pond, the birdhouse, and the long, picture-perfect lane to the house.

Continued on Page 34

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150 Pretzel-Perfect Years…The Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery

by Clinton Martin

The year was 1861. A man named Julius Sturgis was about to unleash one of America's favorite love affairs – the crunch of a delicious pretzel snack. Today, pretzels are found in every grocery store in the country, with some areas like Amish Country, boasting entire aisles with scores of pretzel varieties. Every twisted salty snack you munch on now traces its roots back to the very first commercial pretzel bakery in America, the humble little brick ovens of the Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery in Lititz.

Mr. Sturgis had actually been a baker in Lititz for a number of years before that, having operated a bread bakery as early as 1850. But, as fate would have it, he was to leave bread behind in favor of the, at that time, locally appreciated snack that was unknown outside of PA Dutch Country. There is a light-hearted legend among the Sturgis family as to why Julius stopped baking bread and started with pretzels, but admittedly there is little to corroborate the tale, still…

Legend has it that a hobo who had hitched a ride on a train that ran behind the bakery followed the smell of freshly baked bread, looking for a job and something to eat. Julius couldn't offer the man a job, but he extended his hospitality and invited the hobo to sit down at the family dinner table. In exchange for the kindness, the hobo gave Julius a pretzel recipe.

Today, visitors can tour the original pretzel bakery, become a part of a hands-on lesson in pretzel twisting, observe the bakers twisting old-fashioned soft pretzels by hand, and shop for delicious treats and souvenirs. Admission is $3 for adults and $2 for children.

You can find the bakery (look for the big five-foot tall pretzel out front) on East Main Street in Lititz, itself a jewel of a town deserving of special mention in this, our annual Towns & Villages issue. The bakery is located at 219 E. Main St. Call (717) 626-4354 for hours.

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Meet The Tour Guides...
Tour Guide Receives Ten-Year Pin

In 2012, Carol Waldner marks ten years giving tours at the Amish Experience. Carol was sixteen years old when she first came to Amish Country. That first visit was simply a family outing, but it planted the initial seed of a love for the area. So fond where her memories of her visit that years later, when she married her husband Joe, they spent their honeymoon here.

In 1997 she and Joe stopped being visitors and finally put down roots and became local residents. Soon thereafter, she began giving guided tours at Mill Bridge Village. Her curiosity for understanding the Amish had already swelled to a passion. It wasn't long until she put her thoughts down on paper, penning her book, "Whatever Happened to the Faith Community: A Scriptural Look into the Amish Way of Life." It was her personal response to what she had seen and learned about the Amish.

In 2002 she left Mill Bridge Village and began working for the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm. She had known of the Amish Experience, having met fellow tour guides through various hospitality industry events and knew her new tours would be focused on authenticity, accuracy, and professionalism.

Her favorite tour at the Amish Experience is the guided tour of the Amish Country Homestead, with intimate opportunities to answer questions and speak with visitors, not found elsewhere. On tour, she answers the "how" and "why" of the Amish way. When she encounters a question that she doesn't have an immediate answer for, she researches the inquiry to find the reply for when asked again. She carries with her a small notebook on which she has written the toughest questions she's been asked over the years, with room for more that are sure to come.

She has always believed in a professional, positive attitude when it comes to working with people. Born and raised in Brooklyn, she got her first job when she was 18 as a receptionist at a large textile firm on Madison Avenue. She remembers the huge mahogany desk she sat behind, with a phone the only tool atop its expanse. Her job? First, personally greet everyone that came through the lobby doors, and help them find where they needed to go. Second, to answer the phones and provide helpful service. No filing. No typing. No other work. She remembers well this undivided attention to customer service, and has faithfully carried it with her ever since. Now, at the Amish Experience, when she isn't guiding a tour, she'll often be found helping visitors plan out their next Amish Country adventure.

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Amish Country • What's In A Name?

In Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", our star cross'd lovers are doomed from the start as children of two warring families. Juliet Capulet tells her beloved Romeo Montague, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Of course, Juliet was saying it wasn't the family name that mattered, it was the purity and essence of their love for each other that bound them together.

So, too, it's not our unusual town names that make you blush that tell the story of their wonderful quaintness and friendly people that draw you to them and encourage you to see and learn more. To be sure, Intercourse, Blue Ball, Bird-in-Hand, Fertility, Virginville and others come with extremely high smirk and sneer factors. In fact, if you had a one dollar bill for every tee shirt, shot glass and knickknack sold with Dutch Country town names, you probably could put a dent in our national debt.

Yet, make no mistake, like Romeo and Juliet, it's not the sizzle, but the steak that counts. Get in your car, visit some of these towns and villages, park and walk around, maybe have breakfast or lunch. Watch the smirks turn to smiles.

by Brad Igou

I grew up in Lancaster City where I still live. Downtown is undergoing a renaissance with theaters, music, art galleries, fine restaurants, boutique shops and a new convention center. The city serves as the center of a wheel, whose spokes reach out to many fascinating towns and villages very much unlike the hub which they encircle. Viva la Difference…and for those landed gentry who would promote city over county, urban over country, I can only say, "Get over it!" For me, they have always fit together. For our visitors, many of whom are traveling from urban centers themselves, appreciating Amish Country should mean appreciating both.

Take Lancaster City artist Freiman Stoltzfus, who with Amish Mennonite parents remembers playing under a quilting frame as a boy. Meeting visitors at the family's inn, he was bitten by the travel bug and encouraged in his artistic endeavors. He's traveled and studied around the world, but there is no doubt his Bird-in-Hand roots influence his world view and his art as evidenced by his widely praised recent exhibition at his downtown gallery inspired by quilt patterns.

There's no disconnect for Frieman from his country heritage and his newfound city surroundings, but rather they enhance each other. Quilts as art are just as much an inspiration for his paintings as the places he's visited and the sights he's seen... Are not quilts a wonderful metaphor for so much in life? Certainly, our towns and villages are unique patches of our Amish Country quilt appliquéd over our landscape and people, each individual detailed piece distinctive yet part of the whole.

I'm not going to attempt to cover all of our towns or offer anything definitive in the space allotted. But I do want to whet your appetite to explore and absorb the special character of our countryside and its memorable towns.

Bird-in-Hand charms today with stately old brick-house hotels

I work on Route 340 between two famous towns, Intercourse and Bird-in-Hand. Many of our towns have volunteer fire companies that hold mud sales and dinners, a fun way to mix people, products, and foods with worthy causes. That volunteer spirit and sense of community remain an important characteristic of our towns and villages. Even the name of the Bird-in-Hand volunteer fire company expresses this spirit… Hand-in-Hand.

Like many other surrounding villages, **Bird-in-Hand** takes note of its anniversaries. With its 250th birthday in 1984 the book commemorating the anniversary, often published on such occasions, proved to be a great source of local lore.

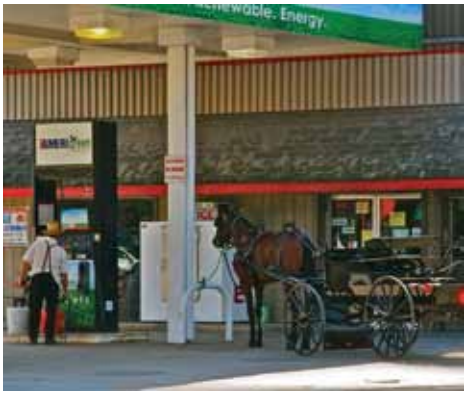
One of my favorites concerns the old Railroad Hotel, when in 1835, a man visiting the tavern with his pet dancing bear was treated to an excessive amount of alcohol by the patrons, as was his bear. Eventually the bear got drunk and had to be locked in the basement!

A more sobering story is that of the "Underground Railroad," which coursed through many Amish Country towns and villages. Quaker activists, Hannah and Daniel Gibbons helped over 1,000 slaves escape from the South. "A single tap on the window at night indicated to everyone in the family that a fugitive was there. Soon each was given a new identity."

More recently, the town gained notoriety via a 1955 Broadway musical, PLAIN & FANCY. The cast was brought to the village on January 17, 1955, to promote the official premiere. On stage, the show opened with a large map of Amish Country, pinpointing its unusual town names, and the opening number focused on two lost New Yorkers asking the locals for directions --- "Where the heck is Bird-in-Hand?"

Intercourse is perhaps our most talked about town and I imagine will forever cause chuckles and raise eyebrows. For us, it's just the name of the town, although I once met a visitor who asked me where the college was located after he had seen a sweatshirt being sold with the words "Intercourse University" emblazoned across the front. I guess entrepreneurs will be entrepreneurs…

That "suggestive" moniker actually led to the town (and nearby Blue Ball, named for the blue ball hanging at the tavern of the same name) being bantered about in the hallowed halls of the U.S. Supreme Court. It seems that in 1965, one Ralph Ginzberg tried to obtain mailing privileges for his EROS magazine, advertisements, and newsletters from the town post offices. Thus did our Blue Ball and Intercourse become part of a famous obscenity trial in which U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy indicted Ginzberg "for distributing obscene literature through the mails, in violation of federal anti-obscenity laws." The Court heard debate on the First Amendment versus keeping America obscenity free which apparently included keeping Mr. Ginzberg from



Everyday life in Intercourse...the allure of when "old" world and "new" ways combine.

the audacious act of mailing his magazines from two little villages in Amish Country.

Interestingly, visitors today continue the pilgrimages to the villages' post offices to mail a postcard home with a town name stamped on the back. I don't know of anyone arrested for doing so since Mr. Ginzberg, so you can pretty much feel free.

A few years later the town of Intercourse recaptured the headlines when Intercourse's Zimmerman's Store hosted Harrison Ford for his filming of some of the most memorable scenes in the acclaimed 1985 movie WITNESS there. The unexpected spotlight on the area was one which many local Amish were none too happy about.

Intercourse, like most of our countryside towns boasts foods and crafts available in family owned stores and shops that line the streets. Simply park your car and explore on foot. Depending on the village, you might twist a pretzel, sample jams and jellies, buy some smoked sausage, enjoy a glass of local wine or purchase a quilt.

Jacob Zook's legacy of Hex Sign designs is still quite visible in Amish Country today.

Running parallel to the south of Route 340 is Route 30. Most people fly through the village of **Paradise** as they travel to and from Amish Country, although Dutch Haven's windmill, a landmark signaling "the place that made shoofly pie famous," is hard to miss. The town is also the home of Jacob Zook's Hex Signs. If Dutch Haven made the shoofly pie famous, Jacob Zook did the same for these legendary good luck PA Dutch decorations.

Hex signs are colorful folk art designs of rosettes, stars, circles, and the "Tree of Life" with their connection to the sun, nature, and the celestial. They can be seen on everything from tombstones and birth certificates, to furniture and dinner plates. Over many years, the story evolved that local Pennsylvania German farmers (but not the Amish) put these colorful symbols on their barns to ward off the evil spirits. That seems to make sense since the word "hex" means "witch" in German. However, there is little to substantiate this explanation, and it is more likely that hex signs have been placed on barns "chust for nice."

It was Jacob Zook, "the Hex Man," who really put hex signs on the national map after he opened his shop in 1942. I had the pleasure of meeting Jacob a few years before his death. He was a little man full of energy and great stories. It was clear to me that his passion and personality along with his innovative technique of silk-screening his designs led to the proliferation of these colorful decorations.

As you drive along Route 30 today, try to envision the old Conestoga wagons that traveled along the "Lincoln Highway." Originating in Lancaster's Conestoga Valley, these wagons made an important contribution to the commerce of our young nation. With patriotic red running gear, white canopy, and blue body, these wagons traveled the roads from the late 1700's to the mid-1800's, pulled by horses specially bred by Lancaster farmers to combine speed with strength. As the wagon drivers traveled here from Philadelphia, they often smoked long, thin cigars nicknamed "stogies," a shortened version of the "Conestoga" they commandeered.

Another bit of lore associated with these wagons may be the reason we Americans drive on the right. The lead horse was kept to the left of the wagon, and the teamsters walked or rode on the left side. Therefore, the drivers always passed other wagons headed the same direction on the left side.

Among the many taverns and stagecoach stops was the "Sign of the Spread Eagle," today's Revere Tavern. It was, and amazingly still is, one of the finer inns along the 62 miles of the turnpike toll road that was the Lincoln Highway, providing food and spirits in generous portions to satisfy hearty appetites after a long uncomfortable day riding a rocking, jolting stagecoach.

Heading south from Paradise, we come to **Strasburg**. Surrounded by farmland, the town is a wonderful blending of what I love about Amish Country. You can stroll the main street shops, enjoy an ice cream cone, marvel at the architecture of the many historic buildings, and people-watch over a cup of coffee. A town this old has plenty of stories, and some say a haunted past which you can explore yourself on the highly recommended town ghost tour.

Known today as "Traintown," the Strasburg Rail Road, Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Choo Choo Barn, and National Toy Train Museum are "musts" for fans of trains large and small. It would be easy to spend a day just exploring all the train attractions, but the variety of things to do in and around Strasburg goes beyond the rails. Witness a jaw-dropping "Bible on Stage" show at Sight and Sound Theatres, currently showcasing the premiere of JONAH before it moves on to Branson. I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that the wrap-around stage and sets put Broadway to shame. Strasburg is also home to Eldreth Pottery, Pennsylvania's largest producer of German inspired salt-glazed stoneware and redware pottery. For families wanting to have some fun on the farm, two places worthy of a visit are Verdant View where you can milk a cow, make cheese, or take a wagon ride through the fields of this operating dairy farm, and Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, with loads of fun family activities along with the Amazing Maize Maze. For simple family bonding time, try Village Greens Mini Golf, my favorite place for a round in beautiful surroundings.

The romance of the rails as only Strasburg can provide.

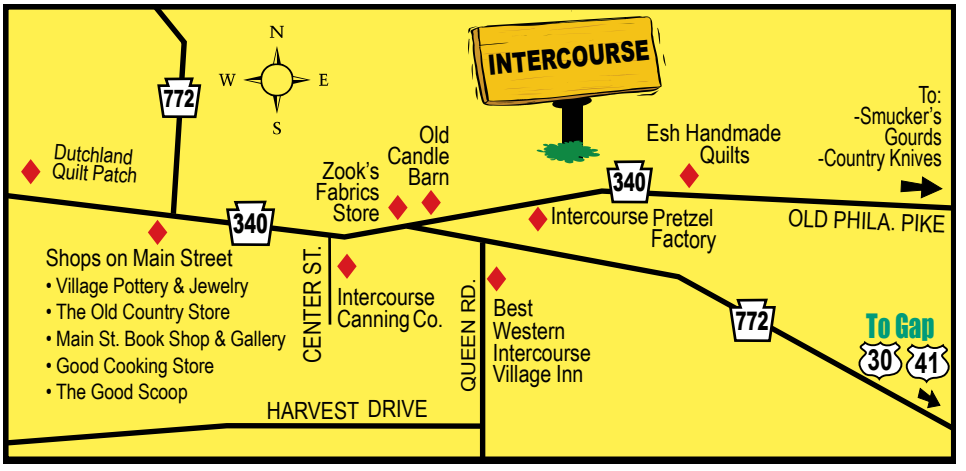
Finally, there are quilt and craft shops scattered all around the area, as well as several covered bridges, and even the farm where the movie WITNESS was filmed (closed to the public, but you can see it on a very exclusive tour offered by the Amish Experience.) In many ways Strasburg is a microcosm of Amish Country, with the added bonus of the whistle of the steam train never far away!

Some of the other towns that space for the 2012 edition of our Towns and Villages Issue did not permit elaborating on, along with some recommendations when you visit are:

- **Columbia** – stroll on the old bridge, enjoy hiking along the river, and visit the National Watch & Clock Museum and Wright's Ferry Mansion. The annual sell-out Halloween ghost tour is one of the best in the nation.
- **Ephrata** – a Mecca for lovers of live theater along with one of my favorite historic sites, the Ephrata Cloister.
- **Lititz** – great shops, Wilbur's Chocolate, the Moravian Church complex, and Julius Sturgis Pretzel Bakery, the first in the U.S.
- **Marietta** – another river town, sprinkled with wonderful buildings, boasts a Christmas Candlelight Tour of homes. I used to love going to the theater there, where a local church organist played live to old silent movies.
- **Mount Joy** – wonderful B&Bs in and around the town, plus Bube's Brewery & Catacombs may be the county's most unusual restaurant.

The best way to experience each town isn't through reading, but by visiting. Don't just see the sights, but talk with the locals. Schedule a visit during a town event. I also encourage you to go the visitor section of www.lancastercountyheritage.com to learn more. Explore, Discover…Make Some Memories!

Welcome to Intercourse PA



Perhaps no other town in the entire country can claim its fame on one simple thing --- its name. Harrison Ford drove a buggy past the road sign on a memorable visit in the Hollywood blockbuster hit of the movie "Witness." For years people have postmarked “Intercourse” on envelopes, and the jokes from visitors who travel through Bird-in-Hand to Intercourse are endless. There are several theories for the name, but that which we find most plausible follows.

Around 1730, the Old Provincial Highway (now Route 340) was laid out to connect Philadelphia with Lancaster. Conestoga wagons hauled freight back and forth between the two cities. Providing rest for travelers and horses, taverns sprouted along the way, becoming centers for news, gossip, and commerce. The construction of a log tavern in 1754 at the intersection of Newport Road and the Highway took “Cross Keys” as its name.

It remained such until 1814, when the name was changed to Intercourse as part of a failed real estate scheme of a Mr. George Brungard, who had acquired 48 acres of nearby land and attempted to lay out a town site and divide it into sections for sale by a lottery, advertising “151 handsome building lots of $250 each to be drawn for by number.” Renaming the town made sense, as intercourse had a common usage referring to the pleasant mutual fellowship and frequent intermingling which were so common in the informal atmosphere of the quiet country village.

Over time, Brungard’s scheme begat others. As recently as 1971, an enterprising soul tried to take advantage of the town’s name by selling deeds for one-inch square plots of Intercourse to visitors. Creative, but nonetheless a failure. By 1880, Intercourse had a population of 280 with a post office that actually moved among stores or restaurants as owners hoped visits by residents would increase their business.

The local stagecoach service started around 1898 as “a single horse conveyance similar to a market wagon, with a roll-up curtain and double set of seats.” When the stagecoach driver knew of passengers beforehand, their comfort on cold days was added to with the placement of hot bricks heated in the oven, and wrapped in newspaper to preserve their warmth.

Continued on Page 12

INTERCOURSE VILLAGE RESTAURANT
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Intercourse, PA

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PaRenFaire.com

Intercourse (Cont'd From Page 10)

As the days of the dirt road drew to a close, so too did the stagecoach era. In 1923 a transit company was organized and bus service initiated to and from Lancaster. While "many of the Amish residents of the area were eager to see the line started, they did not want to invest in stock of the Company. Instead they bought books of tickets which were really prepaid bus fares." Enough money was raised to buy a Mack Auto Bus for $6,800. It held 25 passengers and even had solid rubber tires!

Today Intercourse has been recognized as a "foodie" town by the Visitor's Bureau. You'll soon discover why walking the streets of this tiny hamlet is an absolute must-visit for everyone.

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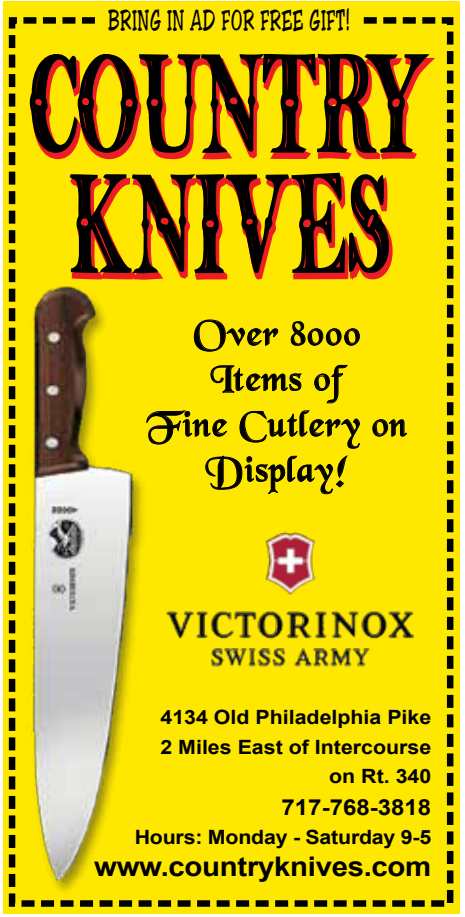

Visit us online at **www.AmishNews.com**
where you'll find archived issues, Brad Igou's continuing Amish Series, recipes from dining issues and lots more!

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"Blow Out the Lights and turn on the Candles"

Always Great Home Cooking… Intercourse Village Restaurant

by Clinton Martin

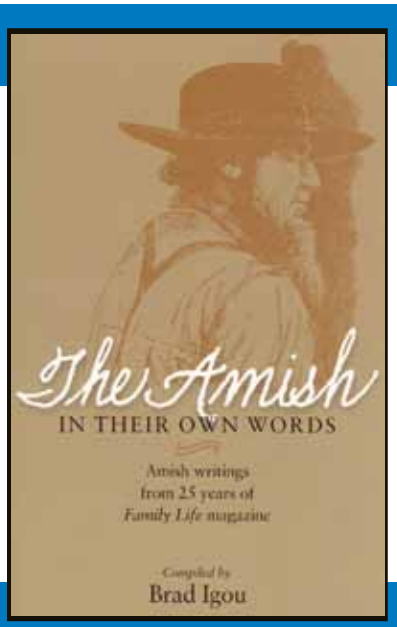
In Intercourse, Amish Country through and through, you can bet the stakes are high when it comes to cooking up down-home fresh country food. Folks around these parts know a good ham loaf from a meatloaf, can sniff out a superior apple dumpling from among the apple fritters, and justifiably consider themselves authorities on creamed chipped beef.

So, when you see both locals and visitors comfortably seated at the Intercourse Village Restaurant, you can take it as a recommendation that doesn't come lightly -- almost an official best-bite-in-town recognition, in fact.

The staff at Amish Country News is known to dine there often, and while we've enjoyed our loaded baked potatoes, shrimp 'n rice specials, countless cups of fresh-brewed coffee on many occasions, we know that it's more than the food that keeps us coming back. It's the ever-friendly wait staff always making us feel at home.

Amish lady servers at a restaurant specializing in authentic, home-cooked Amish dining in the middle of the quintessential Amish village -- what's not to love?

The Intercourse Village Restaurant is open for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed on Sundays. Call 717-768-3637 for hours.



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The Continuing Story of Zook's Chicken Pies

by Clinton Martin

This is the second installment in Amish Country News' editorial series covering the very special Zook's Homemade Chicken pie, so we take our pad and pen from silly tongue-in-cheek humor (the Tupperware crisis from our most recent Spring 2012 issue is available at amishnews.com if you happened to miss it) and take a step towards completely legitimate journalistic pursuits.

While Zook's Homemade Chicken pies may be the most delicious all-in-one Amish Country meal this side of grandma Zook's kitchen, we would be remiss if we did not catalogue the true origins of the pie. Simply put, Zook's Homemade Chicken Pies has clearly perfected the meat pie, but certainly did not invent it.

The homemade chicken pie's path from history book to dinner table starts back in the middle ages. Medieval chefs working the royal kitchens of the day were required to include savory meat pies in their repertoire. Written recipes for "chicken pie" can be found as early as 1796, although it is likely the dish had been prepared for many years prior.

Meat pies were baked in a deep pot, lined with a rudimentary crust, thus the term "pot pie." In fact, the original purpose of the crust was to protect the meat pie's filling from acquiring a metallic taste from the vessel in which they were baked. The crust was actually discarded as waste after the filling had been scooped out and offered up for the family dinner.

The first mass-produced, frozen grocery store variety of chicken pie was produced by the Swanson Co. in 1951. Somewhere between 1796 and 1951, we surmise that the Zook's family settled in Amish Country, began putting homemade chicken pies on their own dinner table, and eventually (and to our great fortune) quietly opened their own family Chicken Pie business.

These days one bite of the Amish-made Zook's Homemade Chicken pie is all you'll need to become a "believer". I'm a huge fan, and I don't hide it. To me, Zook's is making history, (chicken pie history that is), every time I open the fridge at home, pop it in the oven, enjoy the tempting aroma that fills the house a few minutes later, and then savor every delicious bite I slowly devour to make the whole experience last as long as possible. Call 717-768-0239 for ordering information (pies can be shipped) or visit Zook's at 3194 Harvest Drive, Ronks PA. Turn south onto Old Leacock Road off of Route 340 between Bird-In-Hand and Intercourse. At the first crossroad, turn right onto Harvest Drive. You'll see Zook's on the left. Zook's, of course, is closed on Sundays.

Ring the dinner bell. It is time for a Zook's Homemade Chicken Pie.

Stay and Play at Flory's Cottages & Camping

by Clinton Martin

When visitors want to stay and play in the very heart of Amish Country, the value, convenience, and fun of Bird-in-Hand's Flory's Cottages & Camping is the perfect fit. Whether you tow your own house on wheels, or prefer to pitch a tent, Flory's is the ideal corner of Amish Country for your fun family getaway. You can even find a guest house or cottage if you prefer four walls and a roof.

The amenities on site promise to keep the whole family happy, including the 24 hour game room, the scheduled fun events, and the wonderful playground. The area surrounding Flory's has a special charm for visitors. Expect clip-clopping buggies, Amish road-side stands, and dozens of family attractions all within a five minute drive.

Cottages are available in one, two, or three bedroom layouts and all include a covered porch. Sites sell out quickly, so be sure to get your reservation well ahead of time. If you are visiting over Labor-Day Weekend, you will discover the famous Flory's annual pig roast, exclusive to those staying at Flory's that weekend. Don't wait to call 717-687-6670 to book your next Flory's stay.

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Beautiful Hand-Made Quilts from an Amish Farmstead

by Clinton Martin

The sign out by the road says "Riehl's Quilts & Crafts" and welcomes visitors to drive down the farm lane for an Amish Country shopping experience so authentic you'll likely have to share space in the parking lot with the Riehl family's hard-working mules. Stepping out of your car is like stepping into a scene from an Amish Country postcard. The old tobacco shed is off to the left, and the big red barn is off to the right. Straight ahead is the Riehl family's home. The main attraction however, is the smaller barn building slightly to the left. Here you'll find a treasure trove of Amish quilts and crafts.

A working farm first, and a quilt & craft shop second, Riehl's is a great place to see the country life and do some browsing.

No less than 70 local Amish families sew, build, and fashion various craft items that the Riehl's offer for sale to visitors. Of course there are quilts, and in many sizes and styles at that, but at least half of the store is dedicated to one-of-a-kind Amish Country creations like quilted books, old-fashioned toys, sweet-smelling candles, even beautiful wind-chimes sound-perfect for dangling in the wind on your porch.

There is something especially satisfying about browsing a selection of hand-made quilts and crafts at an Amish family farm, knowing that many skilled hands went into making what you are holding in your hand. Expect to meet a family-member or two in the store. Do ask about the products, and I'd encourage you to seek out a "quillow" while you are there. Think of this neat quilt-blanket-pillow item as an "Amish Snuggy." Ask for a demonstration.

Riehl's Quilts & Crafts is open Monday through Saturday, generally 8:00am to 5:00pm. The farm is closed Sundays. Call for current hours 717-656-0697. The store accepts credit cards thanks to the little solar panel on the roof of the shop that produces enough power to run the cash register and credit card machine without electricity. Of course, you won't find electric lights.

Simply put, this is a shopping experience quite unlike any you might discover elsewhere. Make it a stop along your journeys. You won't be disappointed.

Riehl's is located at the intersection of Eby and Stumptown roads. From Intercourse, follow Route 772 (Newport Road) North to Stumptown Road. Turn right onto Stumptown Road. Continue until you reach the "T" in the road. This is Eby Road. Turn right onto Eby Road. Riehl's lane is on the left.

Our Shop is Nestled Between Our House and Barn
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Too Special To Miss…
The Bird-In-Hand Bake Shop on Gibbons Road

by Clinton Martin

Imagine you had an Amish grandmother. Now, imagine she was baking from scratch a pie just for you. Wake up dreamer, there's good news - the real thing is close by. In fact, it's the Bird-in-Hand Bake Shop on Gibbons Road. Just a little off the beaten track, but with helpful signs along the way, you'll find yourself standing in their white-washed bake house faster than you can say "Whoopie Pie."

The Amish and Mennonite women who knead the dough and mind the ovens prepare a variety of baked goods with loving care, ranging from hearty breads to temptingly sweet desserts. A special favorite of the staff at Amish Country News is the slightly salty, ever-so-savory cheese bread, although some prefer the traditional Amish Country favorite wet-bottom shoo-fly pie.

The bake shop is a converted old farmhouse, with the addition of a wrap-around porch beckoning visitors to sit a spell and enjoy some country hospitality along with great baked goods. Proprietors Erwin and Annie Miller emphatically told me, "We wanted the wrap-around porch and picnic areas to provide a perfect place for folks to enjoy a hot cinnamon roll and a steaming cup of coffee."

The sight of delicious Bird In Hand Bake Shop baked goods is almost as good as the smell, but the taste is best of all.

Families traveling with children will especially appreciate the farm animal barnyard with goats, chickens, and even a llama or two to keep the kids occupied. A fine selection of local crafts, gifts, and even an assortment of bulk food items complete the shopping experience.

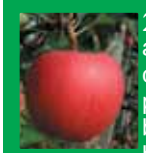
However long your stay, and whatever your plans are in Amish Country, you really do owe it to yourself to seek out the extremely worthy baked delights with old-fashioned techniques and time-tested recipes in a setting you'll long remember.

My advice – find it, you won't forget it, and, you will be back!

From Route 340 in Bird-in-Hand, turn north on Beechdale Road and then turn right onto Gibbons Road. The Bake Shop is off to the left just after the little red Amish one-room schoolhouse.

A Bird-in-Hand Fixture
Since 1915

1915: We put the good Bird-in-Hand soil in central Lancaster County to work growing tree fruits.



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Say Action! in the next issue of Amish Country News

Whether you like to 'WITNESS' the Amish world in a hit movie, or prefer to find a good 'nook' in which to 'kindle' your own literary Amish adventure, the upcoming July issue of Amish Country News is a must-read. The Amish are portrayed in the media everywhere you turn. All the reasons that make Amish Country such a compelling destination also provide great backdrop for best-selling page-turners and box-office smash hits. Look for reviews of Amish-themed books and movies along with interesting articles on howAmish Country shows up on film and stage.

150,000

Amount, at last count, donated to charity by Loxley's Restaurant through their "Legend Continues" program

Riehl's Quilts & Crafts

Sam and Susie Riehl began married life as dairy farmers, just like many other young Amish couples. The family farm was an ideal place to raise a family, to work in a traditional environment.

Susie's mother lived with the couple, and found a useful way to contribute to the family's well-being by making and selling quilts from the basement of the house.

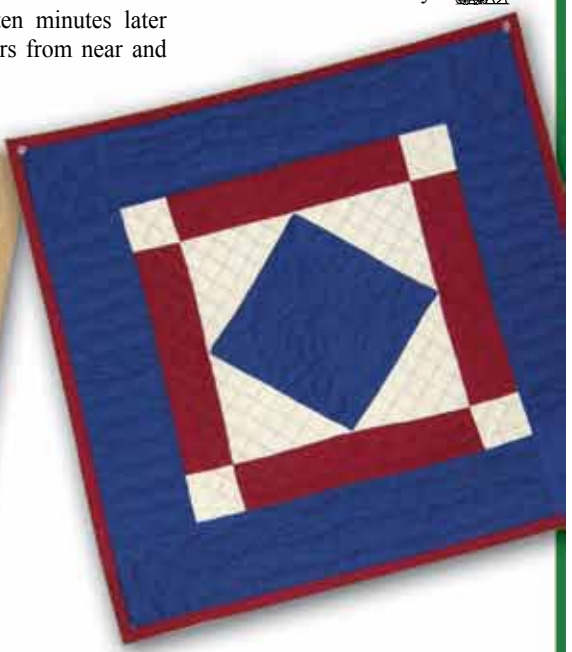
The dairy operation was still priority number one, but the quilts certainly helped the family with an important boost. As time went on, and milk prices continued to lag behind the cost of producing it, the quilts became even more important.

These days, the dairy cows are gone, having been sent to a budding young farmer just starting out. The farm is still humming with activity however, as hay fields flourish and the barn never is quite empty! The quilt shop has grown and expanded from being in the basement to a stand-alone beautifully constructed store right next to the barn.

It has become a common sight for the Riehl family to be hitching up the team of horses for some field work, and then ten minutes later be greeting visitors from near and far, helping them find just the right quilt. Just as the quilt business has grown, so too has their line of locally hand-made products.

Nineteen years later, you can find an excellent variety of quilts, crafts, canned goods, books, and of course the interesting multi-use "quillow" that you'll just have to go and ask about.

All in all, the family business is supported by no less than 70 local Amish families that produce goods for sale, work in the shop, or lend a hand in other ways.



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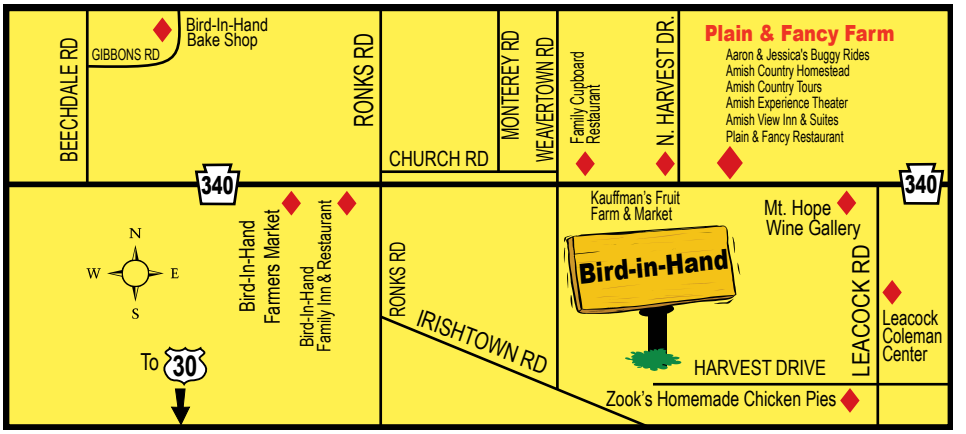
From Rt. 340, Take Rt. 772 West. Turn right onto Stumptown Rd. Then right onto Eby Rd. 1st farm on left. Look for sign.

Welcome to the Village of Bird-in-Hand

Of the many unique village names that dot the Amish Country map, one of the more interesting is Bird-in-Hand. William Penn, an English Quaker, had founded the colony of Penn's Woods, and settlers began arriving from Europe in the early 1700's, moving westward from Philadelphia. The trip by stagecoach, or Conestoga wagon with freight and merchandise, lasted several days. Inns were built every few miles, identified with signs held by an iron pole or attached to the side of the building. The reason for the signs was so that they could be understood by all nationalities. Further, since many teamsters or wagoneers were poorly educated they could not read. Given orders to stop at a certain inn, they were able to do so by recognizing the artwork on the signboard.

The legend of the naming of Bird-in-Hand dates to the time when the Old Philadelphia Pike was being laid out. By 1734, surveyors at McNabb's Hotel were discussing whether they should stay at their present location or return to Lancaster to spend the night, one of them said, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." The sign in front of the inn, which became known as the Bird-in-Hand Inn, is known to have once "portrayed a man with a bird in his hand and a bush nearby, in which two birds were perched.

Variations of this sign appear throughout the town today. McNabb's Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1851. By the following year, a three-story hotel was built to replace it. More recently, it was Bitzer's Hotel before becoming the present Village Inn of Bird-in-Hand, a beautiful bed and breakfast property. The Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County states that the existing brick building "may be one of the few 19th century inns in the context of a small town in Lancaster County, which survives with a high degree of architectural integrity." It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When referring to their bird in hand symbol, some residents say that the bird nestled in the human hand indicates friendship, comfort, and hospitality, all of which you'll discover in this perfectly delightful little village of shops, farmers markets and eateries.



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Review by Jolene on 7/26/11 10:56am
Thank you ever so much to our great guide for a most interesting tour of the one-room schoolhouse and of the Amish country homestead, not to mention the fascinating tour of the farmlands of Lancaster County! Learned so much more than what I had thought to learn on this tour and look forward to visiting again and for doing the VIP Tour! A great thank you as well to the organizers of the tour, as due to traffic problems, I was late and could not make my reserved tour at 10am. This proved to be no problem at all and the ladies simply offered the later tour for me. Thank you so much!
Very Nice Experience!
Review by SheLovesLancaster on 12/19/11 8:32am
The Amish Experience SuperSaver was a wonderful overview of Amish country & lifestyle. Been on this tour 3 times now and learn something new & find new shops to visit each time. Great value. Highly recommend this!
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the Amish Experience

1959 53rd Anniversary 2012

at Plain & Fancy Farm

Last year marked the 52nd anniversary of three of Lancaster's premiere attractions, all at one location on the AAA designated Scenic Cultural Byway, Route 340, mid-way between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

This year marks the 53rd anniversary of Plain & Fancy Farm as the very first family-style restaurant. It remains a legendary dining experience. At the same time, Amish Country Tours (Dutchland Tours) began the first regularly scheduled tours for visitors through the scenic Amish farmlands. And 1959 also marked the opening of the Amish Country Homestead, the only Amish house tour designated a Heritage Site by Lancaster County Planning Commission.

Amish House Tour Unravels Riddles

Amish people wouldn't appreciate visitors walking through their homes all day…nor would you! So the best way to see the inside of an Amish house is on a tour. At the Amish Country Homestead, the staff is committed to interpreting the changing Amish lifestyle. Rather than a museum, it has the feel of a real "lived in" home. Guides take visitors on a fascinating 45-minute tour through the nine rooms. Discover how church is held in the home and hear the singing. See how Mom does her laundry---with a gasoline engine! Upstairs learn about Plain dress, while the kids enjoy the marble rollers.

The Fisher Amish Schoolroom is where you (or the kids) can sit at actual Amish school desks and learn how all eight grades are taught in one room. An Amish schoolteacher helped decorate the room to give it the feel of a real school. It's all included in the house tour.

Interpreting the ever-changing Amish culture respectfully and accurately is no easy task. The authenticity of the Amish Country Homestead resulted in its designation as the only Heritage Site Amish house tour in Lancaster County.

Amish Hi-Tech

In 1995, a new concept in interpreting Amish life debuted when the Amish Experience F/X Theater became only the third "experiential" theater in North America. The goal of this one-of-a-kind project was to give a more personal, intimate view of the Amish, connecting past to present. Rather than a somber documentary, the story goes inside an Amish family as their son Jacob struggles to decide whether to remain in the Amish faith.

An important missing link in most tellings of the Amish story is the persecution of the Anabaptists in Europe and the perilous journey to America. Rather than observe, visitors will now feel a part of history as special effects, including an amazing technology called "Pepper's Ghost," combine with smoke, wind, rain, and fire effects in a wrap-around barnyard setting.

A superb blending of entertainment and education, this touching and exciting production has moved some people to tears and children to exclaim "Wow!" This show, which has been called "400 years of history in 40 minutes of magic," can only be seen here in Lancaster, so be sure to make it a part of your visit. (Shows on the hour.)

Where the Amish Live & Work

Visitors who simply drive around looking at Amish farms rarely come away with much insight into the unique culture that attracts people from around the world. Amish Country Tours provide certified guides to take visitors down the backroads, deep into the farmlands and scenery that is as beautiful now as it was 50 years ago. Guides offer fascinating information on one-room schools, farming practices, "cottage

$2 OFF Amish FX Theater and Homestead Tour Combination Ticket or $1 OFF FX Theater Only

(717) 768-8400 Ext. 210
at Plain & Fancy Farm
3121 Old Philadelphia Pike • Rte 340 • Bird-in-Hand, PA 17505
www.AmishExperience.com

the Amish Experience Theater

Experience FX Theater Open 7 Days: 10am-5pm
Country Homestead Open 7 Days: 10:30am-4:15pm

Valid up to four adults. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Must be presented at time of purchase. Expires 12/31/12.

industries," wedding customs, and more. Did you know there are Amish millionaires?

Amish Farmland Tours	
Monday-Saturday 10:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:00pm	**Sunday 10:00am, 12:00pm 2:00pm**

But you are not just sitting on the 14-passenger shuttle the whole time. Whenever possible, a stop is made at an actual Amish farm. Other stops may include a local bakeshop, roadside stand, or craft shop. Having a guide is recommended over tape tours, which are often outdated and can never answer questions about special activities you may see that day. Purchase tickets for this 90-minute tour online at AmishExperience.com. Click on "Tickets" in the upper right hand corner of the page.

A Lancaster Original

Amos, Ben, Manny and Elmer are the Amish farmers who supply the Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant with sweet corn, tomatoes, watermelon, cabbage, broccoli, squash, peppers and onions. These neighbors, and the neighbors before them, have helped Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant go "from farm to table" for over 50 years. The restaurant is AAA recommended, a PA Preferred and ServSafe award winner, and the Pennsylvania recipient of USA Today's Great Plate Award.

The Amish Farm Feast

Plain & Fancy Farm Restaurant is best known for being Lancaster County's original family-style restaurant. The all-you-can-eat Amish Farm Feast includes your entrees, side dishes, starters, desserts and beverages. Enjoy fried chicken, roast beef, chicken pot pie, baked sausage, real mashed potatoes, buttered noodles, green and yellow string beans, dried sweet corn, chow chow, cole slaw, raisin bread, rolls and apple butter, lemonade, iced tea, hot tea, coffee, sour cream apple crumb pie, shoo-fly pie and vanilla ice cream. A $3 off coupon valid for each adult in the party can be found adjacent to this article.

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Amish Farm Feast
Feast includes entrees, sides, starters, beverages and desserts and is valid for up to 6 adults. Not valid Easter, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving or w/ any other offer, special, group rate. Not valid on ala carte menu. Expires 12/31/12 PLU 505

The New "ala carte" Menu

The restaurant also offers a new ala carte menu featuring mouth watering appetizers, signature soups and salads, charbroiled burgers and sandwiches, and made-from-scratch entrees and platters. The ala carte menu is also a great value with Lunch Specials from $7.95 and Dinner Specials from $10.95.

The Country Store

Find books, videotapes, candles, souvenirs and local handcrafts, and more. Explore The Country Store's collection of traditional Amish clothing, straw hats, bonnets, toys and dolls, and discover new treasures to adorn your kitchen and home. You'll find seasonal items as well as Christmas decorations, available year-round. The store also features Kauffman's Fruit Farm jams and jellies, bakery fresh items from Miller's Bakery, and Plain & Fancy chow chow and apple butter.

AmishView Inn & Suites

While you're at Plain & Fancy Farm, you're invited to stroll up and visit AmishView Inn & Suites, a classically beautiful hotel that features elegant accommodations and incredible views. If time permits, a front desk representative can provide you with a quick tour of the hotel. The indoor pool, fitness center, arcade, whirlpools and fireplaces make AmishView perfect for an intimate getaway, family vacation, or corporate retreat. Complimentary hot country breakfast, wire-less internet, HBO, DVD players, special amenities and kitchenettes come with every room.

Where It All Began

With all of these amenities and attractions in one beautiful location surrounded by Amish farmland, the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy is the ideal starting point to enjoy all that the area has to offer as you create your own special Lancaster County experience!

THE AMISH IN THE MEDIA - Second Edition

by Brad Igou

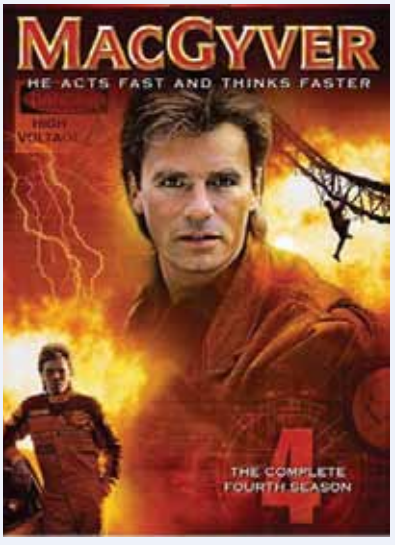
Several years ago, I wrote a series briefly discussing theatrical and film productions with Amish storylines, starting with the 1955 Broadway musical PLAIN & FANCY, and then looking at WITNESS, KINGPIN, FOR RICHER OR POORER, and several TV shows. Even today, the 1985 Harrison Ford movie WITNESS probably remains the touchstone, both here and abroad, for many people's curiosity and perception of the Amish. More than 25 years after the movie debuted, local tours offered by Amish Country Tours to the "Witness Farm" are normally sold out. In this "second edition" of the series, I plan to continue with musings on yet more shows and documentaries worthy of discussion. Stay tuned...

Part 2: MacGyver and Bones

The peaceful Amish intertwined in a mystery is a perfect premise for big or small screen drama. In fact, the first movie I am aware of with Amish in the plot is VIOLENT SATURDAY, a 1955 film noir in which an Amishman played by Ernest Borgnine, who in order to protect his family, thrusts a pitchfork in the back of a robber!

Interestingly enough, this was the same year the Amish "appeared" on Broadway in the musical PLAIN & FANCY, featuring the escapades of New Yorkers who end up in Bird-in-Hand --- played for laughs.

Hollywood "re-discovered" the Amish in a big way with the success of the 1985 Harrison Ford blockbuster WITNESS. Soon Amish began to appear in television storylines as well. Indeed, it was just a few years later, in 1988, that the fourth season of the popular "MacGyver" TV series featured the clash of the Amish and the modern world.



"The Outsiders"

Our story begins as MacGyver (Richard Dean Anderson) is driving along a country road in Amish Country. "There's just something about the Pennsylvania countryside. It smells clean and innocent. It's as close to Paradise as you can get."

And with that a tire blows and his car plunges into a ravine. An Amish boy, Jacob Miller, and his non-Amish friend, Christy Wright, witness the accident. Just as in WITNESS, the little boy's beautiful widowed mother nurses the handsome MacGyver back to consciousness. As he looks at their peculiar clothing, he mumbles "I thought I died and went to Thanksgiving."

The conflict here is that the Wright Construction Company needs to build a highway through the farm, which was "taken" from the Amish by eminent domain. Hothead construction foreman Stevens storms onto their property shouting, "You're too good to mix with us. A war comes along and you won't fight."

Wright, who happens to be little Christy's father, arrives and tells his crew to go home until the State Police can come to evict the Amish.

Next we learn that Jacob's uncle, a brawny Amishman named William, is being shunned for running off to Philadelphia "to go to movies and ride in cars." In this exaggerated interpretation, no one talks or communicates with William, and poor Jacob isn't even allowed to catch a baseball thrown by his uncle.

In order to reach water, the Millers are digging a well (that looks more like an oil derrick). Stevens sneaks in at night and blows up the well with dynamite. The police arrive at the Miller farm met by a group of about a dozen Amish, joining hands, refusing to leave. The bulldozer crashes through the fence and little Christy runs in front of it. As she backs up, the earth collapses and she falls into the shaft of the well, wedged halfway down, unable to move.

MacGyver explains they'll need to dig a parallel shaft and then tunnel in from the side. Jacob is lowered down by rope with Christy's inhaler (she has asthma). When Jacob refuses to come out, both sets of parents realize the children have a secret and deep friendship.

Barrels are used to create a tunnel as MacGyver breaks through to the shaft. There are many tense moments, and the outcast William jumps in to hold up the cracking beam with his back until MacGyver and the children escape, just as the tunnel collapses. MacGyver wryly tells William, "Thanks for your support," and everyone comes to see that William is a good guy after all.

"The Plain in the Prodigy"

Much more to my liking is a 2009 fifth season episode of "Bones," the popular TV show starring Emily Deschanel as Dr. "Bones" Brennan, a character inspired by a real-life forensic anthropologist, partnered with David Boreanaz, as FBI Special Agent Booth.

When the bones of a boy are found scattered along railroad tracks, Dr. Brennan is perplexed because the remains show no evidence of processed food or modern life. "He died two months ago but the data shows he died in the 1800's."

They eventually figure out the remains are of an Amish boy, Levi Yoder, who had escaped two months before, during "rumspringa." Brennan explains this very strange term to Booth as "running around," a time Amish youth are "encouraged to explore the outside world," although I don't know any Amish parents who actually "encourage" their

(Continued on Pg. 48)

Intercourse Canning Company – New Address, Same Great Tastes!

by Clinton Martin

Things have changed at the Intercourse Canning Company – there's a new look, new location, and even new tasting experiences! The large-scale manufacturing side of the business is now located off-site, north of Intercourse. What remains, thankfully, are the delicious tastes that visitors from around the world have come to love for over 15 years.

It all started in 1996, when proprietors Steve and Susan Adams moved to Lancaster from Bucks County. They had come to help open a brand new performing arts venue, but by chance met a man who had just leased a building in the village of Intercourse to start a canning operation. They partnered with him, and the Intercourse Canning Company was created. Steve focused on the "back of house" tasks like accounting and marketing, while Susan was in charge of the "front of house" customer-centric retail store. By their second year, the company had turned a profit, and was clearly winning over die-hard fans.

Eventually, Steve and Susan became the sole owners of Intercourse Canning Company, and grew the business from a few stove-top pots and pans to a combination of "old" and "new," combining handmade, homemade, traditional tastes with special equipment designed to fill, cap, and label the jars.

The new location, across the street from Stoltzfus Meats & Deli, at 13 Center Street, is just a few steps from their old home and now offers more space both in the store and for parking. The added convenience is just the beginning, as proprietor Susan Adams and her family plan on taking full advantage of the expanded space to include live interactive canning sessions in a brand new demo-kitchen, self-guided tours on the history of canning, and educational Q&A's throughout the store.

Oh, and of course there will be "ample samples and aisles of smiles" just like folks have come to expect at the Cannery. As Susan has assured us, the store will continue to feature the Canning Company's original recipes - locally made freshly canned jams, jellies, pickles, and salsas in dozens of varieties. Fans of the awesome chow-chow, spiced dilly beans, and jalapeño eggs take heart, your Intercourse Canning Company treats are alive and as fresh as ever!

No matter how you stack it up, Intercourse Canning Company makes filling your pantry fun.

The Adams listen to their customers, watch food trends, and attend food seminars and shows across the country to see what's new,

Continued on Page 35

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Shady Maple Complex Shines Ever-Bright!

by Clinton Martin

There's always been something special about Shady Maple. Although it's big to be sure, there's nothing "complex" about this Complex. I wanted to highlight a couple of my favorite Shady Maple haunts. It wasn't easy choosing just three, but here goes...

Good's Store

While this store may define dictionary definitions for the word "good," such as bountiful, agreeable, attractive and considerable, it's called "Good's" simply because that's the founder's last name. And after 50 years, locals and visitors alike know the name does indeed describe the shopping experience.

The family has even grown the business to include three other locations in Quarryville, Schaefferstown, and Ephrata, in addition to the flagship Shady Maple store.

Good's Store carries a full line of merchandise including clothing, shoes, fabrics, stationery, domestics, housewares, giftware, hardware, toys, and sporting goods. Not surprisingly, it's been frequented by many Amish, Mennonite, and other Plain folks for generations for its friendly service, vast selection and competitive prices.

Along with the regular name brands are old-fashioned items, like toys that don't take batteries, clothing that you can work hard in, and hard-to-find household items you thought weren't available anymore. One might say that this store really has "the goods."

Martin's Trailside Express

While Martin's Trailside Express has been open to the public since 1998, the story of this convenient quick stop for food, fuel, and a shine goes back a number of years. The company's patriarch, Earl Martin, had originally allowed a few close neighbors to come and purchase gasoline from his trucking company at a lower bulk rate. New regulations for underground tanks gave him the incentive to expand his location and open a retail gas station type facility.

Today, it's much more than just a place to top off the tank. Martin's has all the necessary accouterments to refresh your automobile, from a wash to those little niggling "wish-I-hads" like oil, blinker bulbs, or windshield washer fluid.

And if you need a personal fuel up, Martin's stocks a coffee island of Baronet brand coffees, plus sweet sides like coffee cakes and the locally beloved TastyKake brand. Better still, when the friendly staff at Martin's tie on an apron and fire up the grill to make you a to-order delicious burger, fry up some kickin' chicken, or flip a couple of flapjacks, you know you'll soon be primed to hit the road again in style.

Yes, Martin's Trailside Express is a gas station, but trust me, you'll find the experience goes far beyond simply moving the needle from E to F!

Shady Maple Smorgasbord

Shady Maple Smorgasbord is arguably the most famous of the all-you-care-to-eat restaurants in Amish Country. Interestingly enough however, the namesake of the property near Blue Ball was not the seed that grew to be the mighty complex it is today.

That honor belongs to the Shady Maple Farm Market, a simple roadside stand at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Z. Martin, parents of current owners, Miriam and Marvin Weaver. The Martin's called their produce stand "Shady Maple," as it was situated directly underneath the towering tree of the same name.

But they soon outgrew their roadside surroundings. With every addition to the market, more locals and visitors were finding their way and filling their baskets. Today it's the largest grocery market in Lancaster County, in both size and selection. You probably don't often visit grocery outlets when on vacation, but you owe it to yourself to set foot in Shady Maple's foyer and have your idea of the super market become forever altered.

Of course, the restaurant was a natural evolution of operating a market that specialized in fresh country meats, just-off-the-boat seafood selections, and a produce department seemingly as big as the farms supplying it. And, Amish Country's must-try gastronomic "event" is today the Shady Maple Smorgasbord where unending delicious selections are displayed in steaming trays arrayed along "bars" for you to peruse at your leisure.

The sense of being in Amish Country is very real, as the food options reflect the surrounding countryside, from a dozen ways to prepare corn to a hot batch of chipped beef gravy to pour over oven-fresh buttermilk biscuits. Suffice it to say there is an amazing variety along the 200-plus feet of buffets. And each night at the Smorgasbord sports an additional theme with the chefs' take on seafood, steaks, chops, and ribs. Hungry yet?

Believe me, whether Amish Country is your destination, or you're just passing through, Shady Maple is a great way to spend a few hours, whatever the season, whatever the reason!

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Always an Amish Country "Wilkum" at Lake In Wood Camp Resort

by Clinton Martin

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with one of our most unique residents for an informal chat about his local insights into what makes a pleasant stay in Amish Country. Hans Gnomewell, one of Amish Country's many friendly gnomes, spoke with me about where he calls home.

I happen to live at Lake-In-Wood Camping Resort in Northern Lancaster County. I chose to stay here because of the wonderful accommodations, activities and attractions this corner of beautiful Pennsylvania Dutch Country offers.

All Aboard! Next Stop, Bedtime.

Lake-In-Wood Camping Resort is "home to us gnomes" because it is a friendly place, built to suit the lifestyles of today's campers (even the knee-high ones). From a weekend in your tent to a season in the deluxe park models, this resort becomes a treasured "Home Away from Home!" We gnomes are experienced "full-time" campers. We don't need tents or cabins, but after living under mushrooms, in hollow trees and the like for many years, it's nice to finally enjoy resort-quality facilities.

The resort features a magnificent entertainment hall with a beautifully restored pipe organ for hosting grand parties and resort gatherings. Other pavilions are available for smaller groups (the Gnome Bridge Club are regulars). Adults can enjoy the picturesque views and intimate setting of the lake-view terrace.

If you do come and stay at Lake-In-Wood, I invite you to come and dine with me at the "Gnome Café", a charming eatery where we gnomes come out of hiding to entertain the resort guests. We've been known to host delicious pig roasts presided over by our very own "Porkmeister."

Of course, camping activities abound at Lake-In-Wood. Your kids will never tire of the two activity-filled playgrounds. The whole family will enjoy a refreshing dip in the Swimming Zone, featuring a full-size pool and a kiddie pool, not to mention relaxing spa waters.

You're family can be the "Swiss Family!"

Any time, any season and for any reason, I invite you to join me in this Pennsylvania Dutch Country paradise. Break away and celebrate the coming of Spring at the nearby festivals. Plan a sensational Summer vacation with us. Escape this Fall to explore the area's museums, farmer's markets and antique shops. Discover a land that's alive with over 200 years of Amish culture and history.

Just make sure you stay where we gnomes like to play, at the Lake-In-Wood Camp Resort. Call 717-445-5525 for reservations.

Welcome to New Holland • Blue Ball

The instability in Europe in the late 1600's spawned and nurtured the pioneer interest in the deep forest lands of Pennsylvania — 60 miles inland from Philadelphia. In 1681 William Penn received his 40,000 square-mile land grant to settle King Charles' debt to his father. Himself a Quaker, Penn had experienced religious persecution firsthand, and decided to establish his American colony based on complete religious freedom.

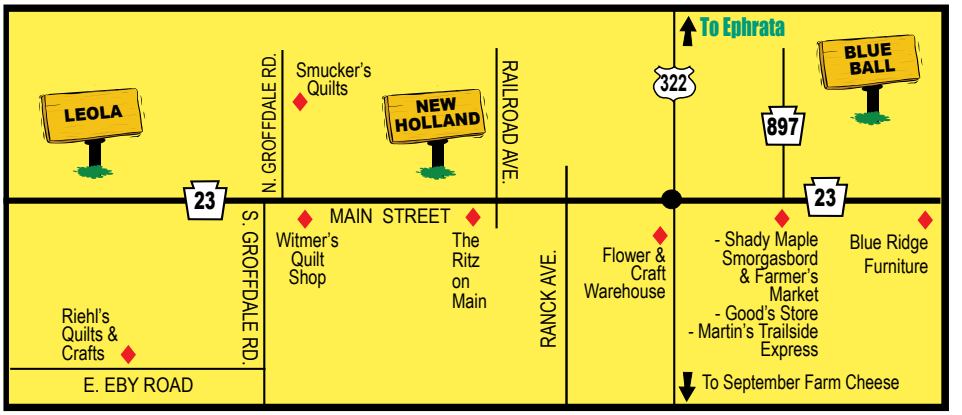
This entire century had been one of continued misery for the peasants of the Palatinate (western Germany). The Thirty Years War had raged across the area with barbaric ruthlessness. The peasant inhabitants fled to nearby Holland for refuge. And within a decade of the end of that conflict, King Louis XIV of France started a new religious war in the same general area. These Palatinate peasants were exhausted by war's desolation, and were ripe for a new start. Traveling land agents for William Penn's new colony found willing ears. In addition to religious freedom and a peaceful existence, Penn offered cheap land. The stated price was 100 English pounds for 5,000 acres. (At today's rate exchange, this would be less than $.04 an acre). By the year 1702, a goodly number of Palatinates had immigrated to Pennsylvania, and Queen Anne, newly reigning in England, was delighted that Penn was colonizing his immense grant without drawing off the population of Britain.

The area today called New Holland was practically covered by virgin forests—sturdy timbers of oak, ash, chestnut, and walnut. By 1728, William Penn had been dead for 10 years and his American colony, called Pennsylvania, was being administered by a proprietary governor while the sale of land was formalized by patent deeds.

In 1802, when a post office was established and an official name was necessary, there was no objection to naming the town New Holland.

These grateful people remembered how extremely kind the inhabitants of Holland were to them, with assistance thought to have included funds to cover the cost of the refugee German immigrants' ocean voyage.

This was no small matter when the alternative was indentured service for a period of years. For adults, indenture frequently meant four to seven years of labor without pay. Minors served until their 21st birthday. But still, William Penn's Quaker Pennsylvania was liberation compared to the Europe they fled seeking freedom of religion, assembly and speech for all, hopefully, none of which we take for granted today.



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The thrill of the hunt, but never the agony of defeat!

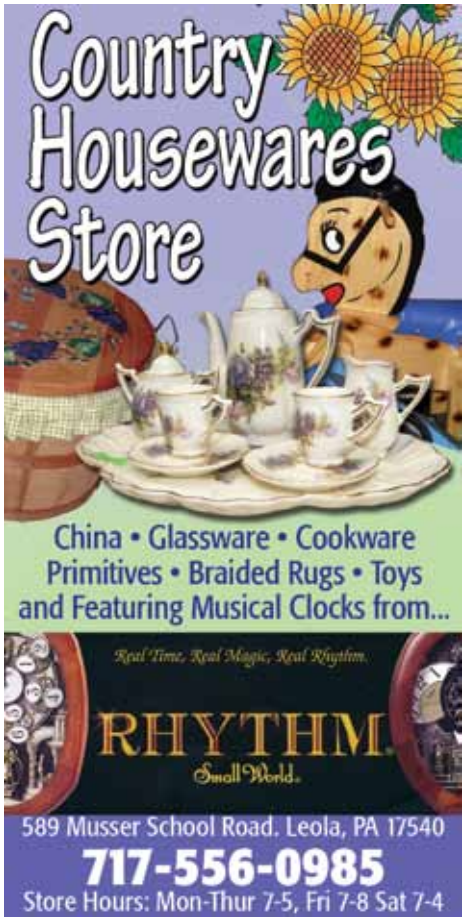
by Clinton Martin

Shupp's Grove Antique & Collectibles Market has been a beloved bastion for bargain hunters and antique collectors so long that brand new merchandise you would have found on store shelves when they first opened now represents some of the nostalgia you can shop for during this, their 50th anniversary in business.

Of course with dozens of vendors specializing in various antiques and collectibles, you never know what fantastic find you'll make, but there's inevitably something that will catch your eye. Each weekend features a special theme, allowing shoppers to hone in on their favorite pieces of the past.

June 22-24 are reserved for Shupp's Grove MilitaryFest. This annual event at Shupp's is the largest outdoor militaria and gun show in the area, featuring quality militaria from the Revolutionary War through the present day.

Shupp's Grove is known as "the Picker's market, where REAL DEALS still happen." I encourage you to become part of the 50 years of the hunt. Shupp's Grove is open dawn to dusk Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Traveling North on Route 272, turn South onto Route 897. Shupp's Grove will be to your left after about two miles.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Amish Country's Home-Town Hotel… The Country Inn of Lancaster

by Clinton Martin

To stay and play properly in our Amish countryside, you've got to get in touch with your country side. The Country Inn of Lancaster is just the place to help you get started. Quaintly decorated rooms remind you that you are definitely not in Manhattan, as does sitting on the hand-made wooden rocking chairs on the wrap-around porch.

The Country Inn is a warm and charming place with amenities like the onsite indoor/outdoor heated pool with hot tub, the Amish-style quilts in the master suites and free high-speed internet access, you might be tempted to just stay in for the day and relax. However, with most attractions within minutes from the hotel, you'll probably want to venture out and take in some of the local excitement. Plan your fun for the whole weekend, as the hotel often has fantastic deals on extending your stay through Sunday night.

Also on the property is one of our favorite eateries, the Your Place Restaurant and Pub, particularly famous for its strombolis. Orders can be delivered straight to your room for normal menu prices, not marked up like other hotels' room-service, showing their respect for their guests.

If your summer vacation doesn't include a stay at the Country Inn of Lancaster, find time to enjoy lunch or dinner there and plan a return visit for the fall! They'll have hot apple cider and popcorn available during check-in hours – a delicious Country Inn tradition.

Country Inn of Lancaster is also a great place to bring a group. Work meetings, birthday parties, anniversaries, holiday parties, and yes even sports drafts! There are two rooms that accommodate both large and small groups, and meal and beverage services are available from the restaurant.

If you'd rather not take our word for it, you can read un-edited fellow traveler reviews online. 90% of Tripadvisor® reviews in the last 12 months were "Very Good" or "Excellent." No explaining the case of the 10% who somehow just didn't get it.

The Country Inn of Lancaster is located on Route 30 East and can be reached at 1-877-393-3413.

120

Varieties of loose leaf tea available at Sugarplums & Tea.

Hershey PA – Made Famous by Chocolate

by Clinton Martin

For those of us who live here, Hershey is always a fun place to visit, and of course, it's ChocolateTown for us too. Most visitors, and there are millions of them each year, know that Hershey is synonymous with chocolate. It's not surprising for them to see the main streets named Cocoa and Chocolate Avenues and look up at the streetlights in the shape of Hershey Kisses. Hershey's Chocolate was founded by the world-famous candy entrepreneur Milton S. Hershey, and so was his town.

With the success of his chocolate company, in the early 1900s Mr. Hershey created a planned community with streets lined by trees, connected to public water, sewer, and electricity, and outfitted with telephone lines and trolley routes. A theater, library and amusement park were built for the community, which mainly consisted of Hershey factory employees. Today, that same amusement park, greatly expanded, is the famous Hersheypark, a world-class attraction for thrills and spills.

Milton S. Hershey also used his chocolate-fueled fortune to create a world-famous school for orphan children that to this day remains one of the great examples of American philanthropy. In 1910 Milton and Catherine Hershey started their school with four orphan boys. (They had no children of their own.) In 1918, Hershey left his entire personal fortune to the school, making headlines in the New York Times. The statue dedicated to him in the school's Founders Hall reads, "His deeds are his monument. His life is our inspiration."

When visiting Hershey, you obviously can't miss doing something "chocolaty." Your visit to Hershey's Chocolate World begins with a "factory tour" unlike anything you've ever seen. Chocolate World is free, as is the free chocolate tour ride, which even includes a free sample at the end. For the more "epicurious" fan of chocolate there are gourmet-tasting attractions available for a nominal fee, create your own candy bar stations for the kids, and even a Really Big 3D Show.

Nearby you'll also find another Hershey must-see. The Antique Auto Museum of Hershey sits atop a hill, overlooking Hershey's famous amusement park. What you'll find inside is a mammoth and awe-inspiring collection of what America loves almost as much as chocolate – the style and grace of its gorgeous automobiles. Of course you'll see antique gems and glittering sports cars, but other forms of automotive excellence are also on display, including the museum of bus transportation, which showcases those great people-movers of American history.

They say Hershey is the "Sweetest Place on Earth." Who are we to argue?

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The classic American cars at the Antique Auto Museum of Hershey look fast even when sitting still.

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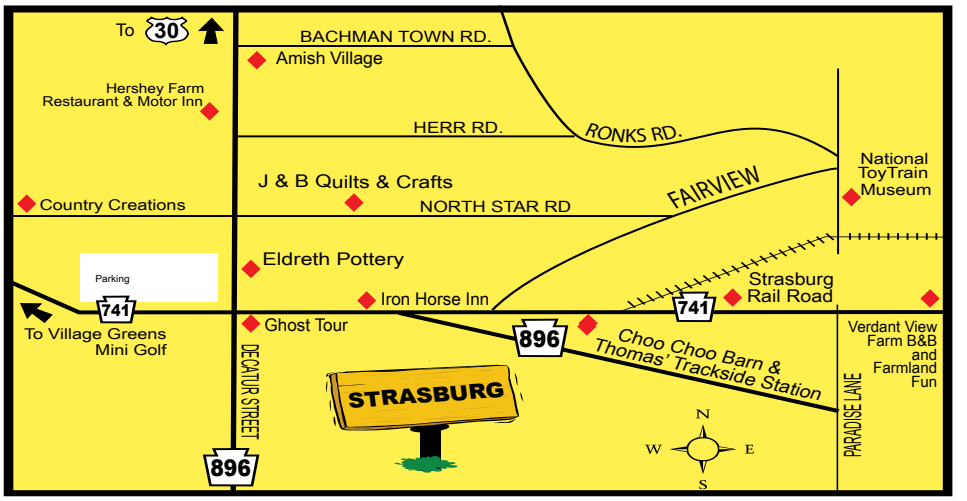
Strasburg - A Town of Trains & Heritage

All aboard! Strasburg is a destination all its own in Dutch Country, home to many well known attractions. To name just a few --- the Strasburg Rail Road, Sight & Sound Theatres, Ghost Tours of Lancaster, Cherry Crest Adventure Farm, National Toy Train Museum, and the Choo Choo Barn. But you may not know much about the interesting history of "Train Town."

Strasburg, named for the city in France, was actually "founded" by a Frenchman, Pierre Bezaillion, who traded with the Delaware Indians. The story goes he came to the area in 1693, as French fur traders opened up the first path through this area from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna River.

As early as 1716, when the first wagon was used for hauling goods, the path became known as the Conestoga Road, and the wagons that traveled them eventually became known as Conestoga Wagons. Main Street Strasburg was developed during the next half century as traffic on this road increased considerably and the first log houses appeared in the village about 1733.



Strasburg continued to flourish in the 18th century primarily because of its location along the major wagon routes between Philadelphia, Lancaster, and the Susquehanna River.

As Strasburg flourished, so did its neighbor to the east, Philadelphia. The commercial interests of Philadelphia pressured the State Legislature to improve the transportation

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network into their city. As a result, a series of canals along with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Roads were constructed. Strasburg residents became alarmed at the possibility of losing their commercial position and there soon emerged a charter for the Strasburg Rail Road to construct a rail line connecting Strasburg with the Philadelphia and Columbia Rail Road main line near Paradise. Finally in the 1850's, trains were hauling freight and passengers.

About 100 years later, business had dwindled, and a severe storm in 1957 destroyed much of the track. It seemed the SRR had reached the end of the line. To the rescue came a group of local train enthusiasts who began bringing the SRR back to life in a totally new way. They added passenger cars and buildings, and today's Strasburg Rail Road was born, destined to become one of Dutch Country's top attractions.

Appropriately enough, the State decided to build an expanded Rail Road Museum of Pennsylvania across the street, the ideal place to preserve the history of railroading in Pennsylvania. With the other train attractions nearby, it's little wonder that Strasburg has earned the title of Train Town, USA!

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All-Age Fun and Games at Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet

by Clinton Martin

It is always fun to visit Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet, but, mark your calendar for Sunday June 10th, 2012, for a very special baby doll party you won't want to miss. You are welcome to bring your own dolls, whether or not you bring children along!

That's right, doll enthusiasts of all ages will be treated to a cute and cuddly Baby Doll Party. Those who already know and love Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet will look forward to the baby doll hair salon and baby doll adoption nursery. The big news is that on June 10th the added attraction of Dr. Richard Cerda, of Berenguer Baby Doll Company will mean doll-signing opportunities and even special baby doll birth certificates with oh-so-cute adoption ceremonies.

That's right, buy a Berenguer doll on the 10th and have Dr. Cerda sign a birth certificate for your doll, perform the adoption ceremony, and if the doll has a cloth body, sign the doll itself. Berenguer Dolls range in price from $6.00 to $125.00 so there is a cuddly baby for every pocketbook. All baby dolls are welcome to come to the party, but only Berenguer Baby Dolls will be signed by Dr. Cerda.

Each baby doll receives a complimentary check up by the nurses and doctors on duty. There will be plenty of other fun, games, and prizes for the Mommies who bring their babies or purchase a baby the day of the party. Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet has recently remodeled their baby doll hair salon into a pretty, pink Princess themed doll hair salon. Interested doll owners can call ahead and schedule a special doll styling session and photo shoot.

Meet a Celebrity Doll Designer at Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet on Route 30 in Lancaster.

Aimee & Daria's Doll Outlet is located on Route 30 just east of the Outlets beyond RT 896. Call 717-687-687-8118 or visit www.dolloutlet.com for further details.

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Continued from Page 5

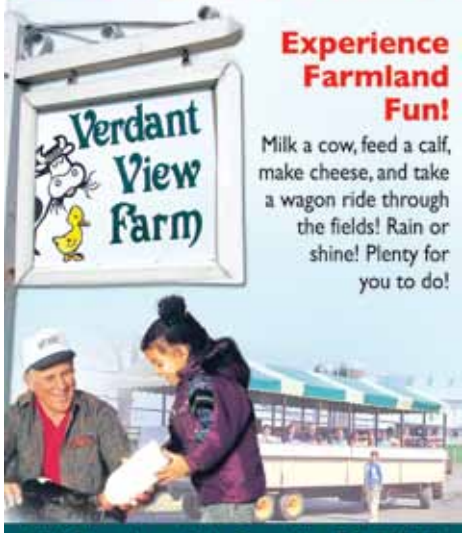
New for 2012 is the opportunity to step onto the main floor of the barn for photos of the area where the fondly remembered "dance" scene took place. John Book (Ford's detective character) has taken refuge with an Amish family and is listening to his radio while trying to fix his car. Amish widow, Rachel (Kelly McGillis) comes into the barn and, with an obvious attraction to one another, they are soon dancing to the music. Rachel's father-in-law, Eli, surprises them and sternly puts a stop to the romantic interlude.

The 4:30pm tour, departing from the Amish Experience Theater at Plain & Fancy Farm on Route 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse, runs Wednesdays and Saturdays only, May through October. The limited capacity tour includes behind-the-scenes stories of locals in the production and a scenic drive which passes through three historic covered bridges. (Tickets by phone: 717-768-8400, ext.218, or at www.AmishExperience.com.)

Into movie trivia? Amish Country News is asking film buffs for the name of the song Book and Rachel dance to in the barn, who wrote it, and the singer. Correct responders will be drawn on the first of July, August and September and will receive two complimentary tickets for the tour this year. Email to editor@AmishNews.com, typing "Witness Contest" in the subject line.

After experiencing the tranquility of this farm, you'll appreciate why Eli told Book at the film's conclusion, "You be careful out among the English." You may not want to leave either.

Farm Fresh in Strasburg



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Intercourse Canning (Cont'd From Page 23)

what people want, and identify demand for new products that fit within their model of freshly made country-style foods. Salsas, sauces, and marinades are but small examples. Existing foods are also adapted or re-vamped to meet changing or regional preferences. New recipes are often tested right in the store, such as the now-famous blueberry applesauce and Amish peanut butter spread. They even offer two kinds of chow chow, the traditional PA Dutch version, and the southern style as well. Southern visitors had been coming to Intercourse Canning Company for years, and would proclaim the chow chow they knew and loved was quite different. Susan decided to produce a few jars of the "Southern Chow Chow" and so many visitors found it to their liking, it just had to go into regular production. You can sample both varieties on your next visit to Intercourse Canning Company.

Visitors stepping through the doors of the Intercourse Canning Company for the first time will discover that browsing, sampling and deciding what to take home is always a "challenge." It's just not easy creating your list of Cannery favorites from among the 300 original pantry-filling delectables tempting you at every turn.

I would like to offer a new twist to the axiom that you should never go food shopping when you're hungry. For your visit to the Cannery, do just the opposite. Why? – it's simple, when you get home, you'll be glad you picked up that jar of the black raspberry preserves to go with the strawberry and blueberry that first found their way into your basket.

Continued on Page 44

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- Pour over 1 pound of cooked macaroni noodles.
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Dutch Haven – The Shoo-Fly that Made Dutch Country Famous

by Clinton Martin

Well, maybe Dutch Country was already a little bit famous. But, there's no mistaking that it was Dutch Haven that made the Shoo-Fly Pie famous!

Of course, many still call Amish Country a wonderful place to visit, but if you hear someone calling it Paradise, it's more than just a term of endearment. East of Lancaster on Route 30, past the massive outlet malls, the beautiful rolling hills on either side of the road encompass the little village of Paradise. There is plenty to see and do along this stretch of Amish Country highway, including a stop at the very spot where the Shoo-Fly Pie got its national kick-start!

Dutch Haven is not only one of the most easily identifiable shops in Paradise, it has become a landmark for all of Amish Country. The giant windmill's swinging arms have been beckoning visitors to stop and rest a spell for over 50 years, offering everyone who stops in a free taste of their famous shoo-fly pie, warmed and topped with whipped cream. Yum!

Dutch Haven has been true to the original Shoo-Fly Pie recipe since 1946. Talk about notoriety… Try featured in Time® Magazine as the America's best Shoo-Fly Pie. Even people who think they don't like Shoo-fly Pie fall in love with just one bite. Thousands of pies can easily be sold each week, both in the store and shipped across the country.

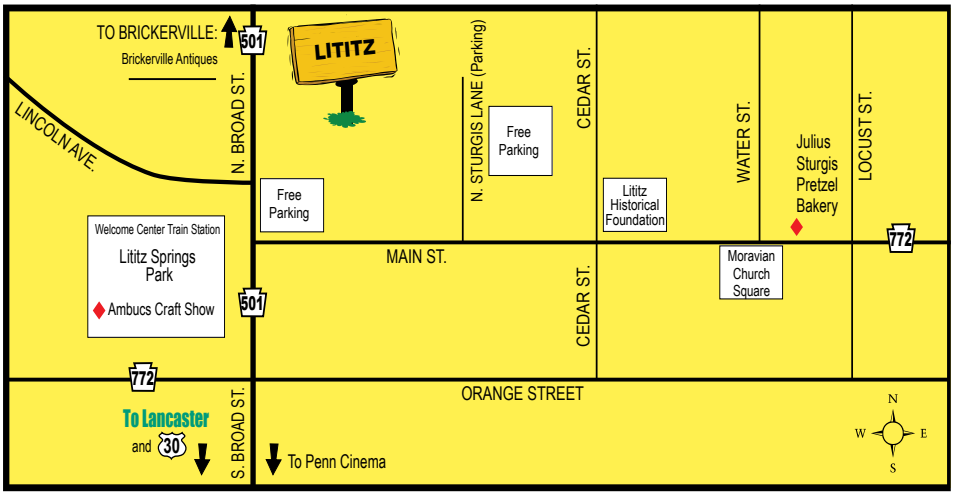
While Dutch Haven continues to enjoy accolades for its shoo-fly pie, there is much more to the octagonal edifice than just pies and cakes. The family-owned store offers a selection of over 10,000 souvenirs, which represent the most traditional of local Amish crafts to off-the-wall fun kitschy merchandise. You can literally pick out hand-made Amish furniture while at the same time making sure that you find that perfect tongue-in-cheek Amish Country joke gift for your friends.

Dutch Haven is easy to fit into your Amish Country itinerary. It's open every day, including Sundays, from 9am, and doesn't close until 9pm for those of you doing last-minute gift buying.

You'll also find on site Jakey's Amish BBQ, a quick and casual restaurant offering delicious platters complete with all the fixings. The slow-roasted aroma of smoked meats announces the tasty treats even before you step inside.

To order your Shoo-Fly Pie, or for Dutch Haven details, call 717-687-0111.

Historic Lititz • A Hometown Treasure



There really is no place quite like Lititz, and visitors should plan time there while in Amish Country. Along with dozens of storefronts of specialty shops, Lititz Springs Park, and its idyllic setting are a throwback to a quieter America.

The Lititz story is tied to that of the Moravian faith in Bohemia. As was the case with other persecuted religious groups in Europe, many Moravians sought freedom in the New World, arriving in the early 1700's, with settlements in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. In 1755 the town actually took the name Lititz, the German spelling for Lidice, where European reformers had taken refuge in the 15th century.

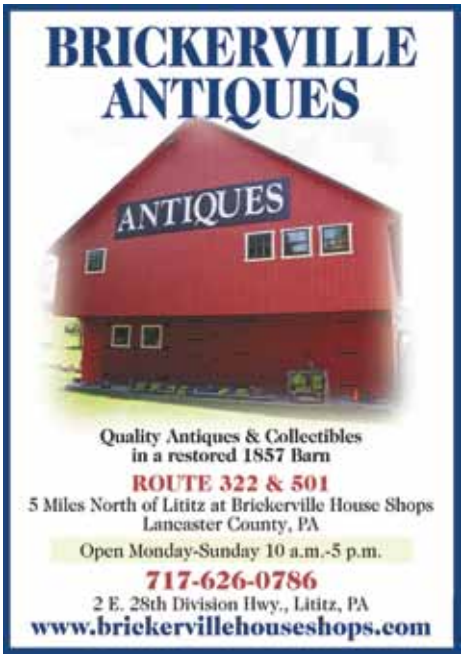
Music and education were important to the Moravians. In fact, the Lititz schoolhouse erected in 1746 marked the beginnings of what was to be Linden Hall, the oldest continuously operating residence school for girls in the United States.

For one hundred years, Moravian church members were the only people permitted to live in the town. It was not until 1855 that non-Moravians were allowed to own their own homes. The complex of buildings comprising the Moravian congregation is well worth seeing, particularly the church built in 1787.

One name is linked forever with the history of Lititz --- Julius Sturgis. It was Julius Sturgis who opened the first commercial pretzel bakery in the New World in Lititz. The year was 1861, and the site at 219 East Main Street is on the National Register of Historic Places. A tour of the bakery, still in operation, is unlike any other and well worth your time.

The more you explore Lititz, the more you'll agree it is one of Amish Country's best kept secrets!

Get out and camp in Amish Country, but before you do, get your gear at Leacock Coleman Center in Intercourse.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Something "Old" and "Special" at Brickerville Antiques

by Clinton Martin

The barn at the intersection of Routes 322 and 501 north of Lititz housing Brickerville Antiques is itself quite historic and worthy of a visit. Constructed in 1857, it is the one "antique" you'll find at Brickerville Antiques that is strictly not for sale!

The rest of the over 3,000 square feet of space is home to a grand variety of neat, old stuff. Dozens of individual dealers literally have on display hundreds of antique toys, fun old advertisements, collectible vintage kitchenware, household items, and even some seriously rare pieces of various genre.

This is the perfect time of year to freshen up your decor with a vintage or antique accent piece or start a whole new collection. Brickerville Antiques is open seven days a week. Call 717-626-0786 for hours and directions.

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AMISH CO NEWS

Today's Sewing Machines

by Bonnie Browning

Sewing is a wonderful craft and the sewing machines available today can help us create even more projects. If you are in the market for purchasing a machine, there are so many choices, where do you start? Begin by asking yourself a few questions:

- What kind of sewing do I do? Clothing? Crafts? Quilting? Home Décor?
- What features are important to me? Simple straight and zigzag stitches? Decorative stitches? Embroidery? Multiple feet? Speed control? Feed dogs that drop?
- Can I add additional feet and other accessories to the machine?
- Is service available from a local dealer? Do they have an in-store service department or is the machine sent out for tune-ups or repair? What does a tune-up cost?
- Are lessons included in the cost of the machine? Is there a project book to help learn the features of the machine?
- Does the machine fit my sewing space?
- Is there a case for the machine for travel?

How much you sew and what type of sewing you do will determine the answers to these questions. If you are a beginner, a simple machine that has straight and zigzag stitches, and a built-in buttonhole feature is a good model to start with. For sewing clothing, you may want a free arm for handling cuffs on sleeves, hemming pant legs, etc.

If you use a wide variety of fabric weights, a medium to high-grade machine may be needed. These machines will have tension and speed controls that can be changed for better control when sewing lightweight or heavy fabrics. These machines are also good for quilting. For embroidery, you can choose a sewing machine that has an embroidery unit that can be attached, or you can select a specialty machine that just does embroidery.

Check out different brands of machines at your local dealers. Or, you can try out machines when you attend large quilt shows like the AQS Quilt Show held in March in Lancaster, PA. Take some of your own fabric with you to sew on. Listen to the machine as you sew – is it quiet or noisy, are the stitches even and smooth?

Learning to use your machine will give you untold hours of enjoyment. Local quilt shows, quilt guilds, and quilt shops all give classes on how to get the most from your machine, teach you new techniques, and how to creatively use all of those stitches and feet that come with your machine.

Buy your sewing machine, learn to use it, and enjoy being creative.

About the Author

Bonnie Browning learned to sew on her mother's treadle sewing machine as a child. She began quilting in the late 1970s and entered her work in numerous quilt shows. She became a Certified Quilt Judge in 1986, and has been employed as the Executive Show Director at the American Quilter's Society since 1994. She is also a Certified Zentangle Teacher. www.bonniebrowning.com

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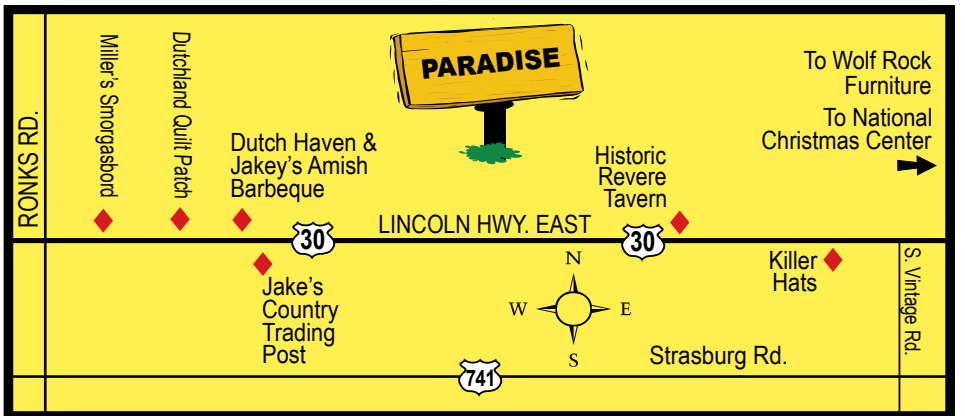
Welcome to Our Paradise



Visitors to Lancaster from the east on RT 30 travel through Paradise, just one of our many intriguing town names. The town's story traces back to Europe over 300 years ago, to the area of the Palatinate in Germany where Protestants had settled following the declaration of King Louis XIV that all Protestants in France would be persecuted. Fearing a French invasion, many accepted the invitation to settle in the New World in William Penn's colony of Penn's Woods. By 1712, they had secured land in Lancaster's Pequea Valley as the area's first white people, living peaceably with local Indians.

The origins of RT 30, also known as "Lincoln Highway," date back to Lancaster's Colonial days when the frontier county needed a highway to connect it with the provincial capital of Philadelphia. The road that was constructed is now Route 340, still referred to as the "Old Philadelphia Pike." Soon, it was apparent that the Pike was insufficient to handle the increasing traffic, and in 1790, a commission to survey a new route was created. Since the cost was too much for the state to undertake, the company charged with building it was given the power to demand "reasonable" tolls from users. Investors received dividends earned from tolls collected along the gates of the turnpike. (As the toll was paid, the gate or "pike" was turned, hence the term "turnpike").

The Act described the construction of the highway, which was to be a bed of small crushed stones on top with, rather than dirt, larger stones underneath to prevent carriage wheels from cutting into the soil. This revolutionary system of road construction is credited to a John McAdam, whose name became the term for paved or "macadam" roads. The turnpike opened in 1795 as the first long-distance, hard surfaced road in the country. Taverns and stagecoach shops grew up along the turnpike for weary travelers. Of these, the Revere Tavern, dating back to 1740 and originally called the "Sign of the Spread Eagle", still proudly stands today. In 1841, the tavern became the residence of Reverend Edward V. Buchanan and his wife Eliza Foster Buchanan. Eliza was the sister of Stephen Foster, whose immortal songs will always be a part of Americana. Foster not only penned music at the tavern, but sent many of his manuscripts to Eliza, also a talented musician, for her approval. On the banks of the Pequea Creek, Eliza and Stephen played many of Stephen's 200 songs, including "Way Down Upon the Swanee River" and "Oh, Susanna."

Wherever you happen to call "paradise," we hope you can see that a little bit of our own Paradise won't do you any harm!

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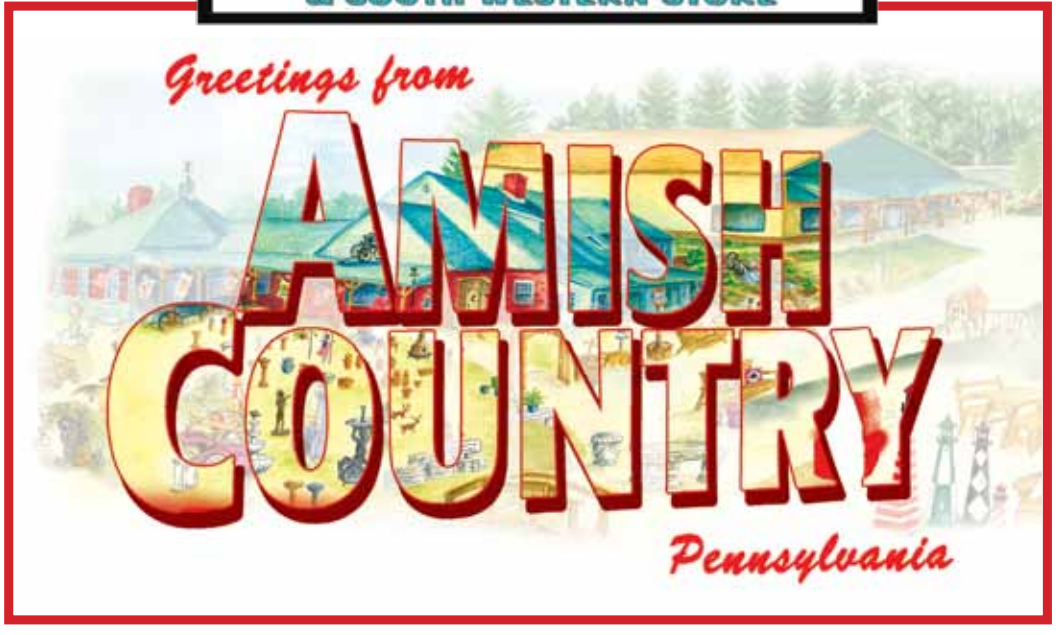

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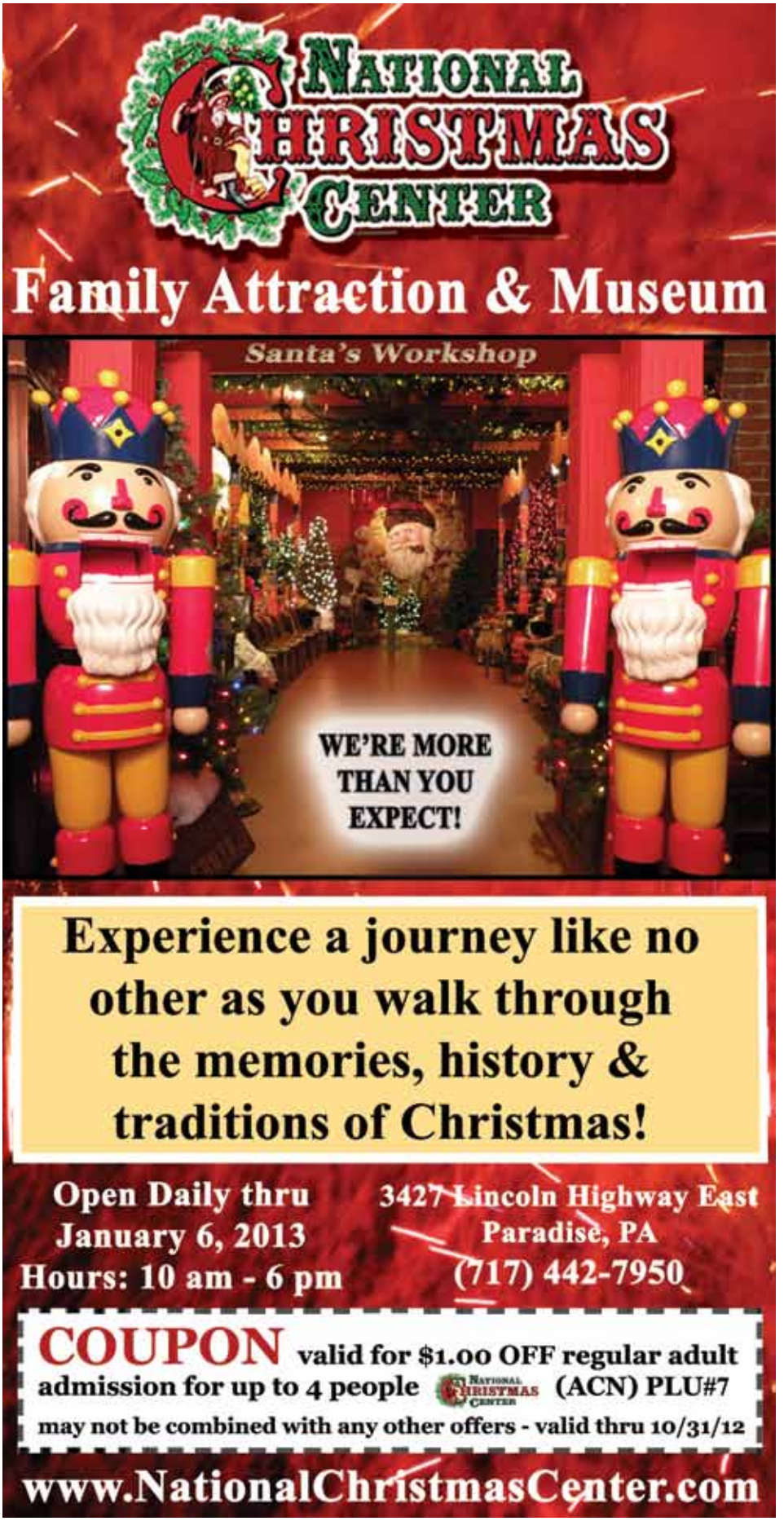
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Decorating Your Life in Style…Jake's Country Trading Post

by Clinton Martin

There's great home décor available in Amish Country. You can also find cool apparel. Same for gifts, sports memorabilia, and outdoor products. But with the cost of gas these days, who wants to put so many miles on their car. Worry not – there's a place that has it all. Your destination is Jake's Country Trading Post in the lovely town of Paradise on Route 30 East.

There is always something new at Jake's. The ladies love Jake's for many reasons, and, there are plenty of items in this vast store of "everything you can think of" to make the minutes disappear into an hour or more for the men as well. With an amazing selection of tin signs, sports-related items (NFL & MLB), and outdoor gifts, how could the guys be bored? Meanwhile, the ladies are finding everything from curtains and quilts to purses and jewelry. Truly, Jake's offers anything from outdoor statuary to decorate your yard, to the finishing touches for decorating your home, be they curtains, linens, candles, artwork, and much, much more.

For me, one of the awesome things about Jake's is that the employees don't just come and go season by season. Most have been here for years, long enough to have seen the store grow from one building with 14 rooms to over twice that size with two large buildings plus a yard full of merchandise.

These folks know where things are, and are eager to help you find whatever might be on your shopping list. Each has a specialty, from curtains and linens, to candles and sports, and so on. Owners Ed and Melissa Jackson have every reason to be proud of this exceptional staff, starting with Crystal, Jeremy, Jon, Jackie, Jodi, and Sherry.

It is hard to find a better time shopping than at Jake's, located on Route 30 approximately two miles east of the outlets. Call 717-687-8980 for store hours.

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The Forever Christmas in Paradise

by Clinton Martin

Yes, Virginia, you can experience the whimsy and the fantasy of Christmas each and every day of the year. All you need do is motor to the nearby National Christmas Center on Route 30 in Paradise where you'll relive the magic and the memories of so many Christmases past, and rediscover the legacy and the traditions associated with the world's most beloved holiday.

The National Christmas Center is a virtual panorama of the fantastic world of Christmas that celebrates the spirit and good cheer of the holiday all year long in a family attraction that's full of warm fuzzies for everyone.

Fifteen main galleries showcase different glimpses of Christmas, ranging from Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas customs to the old-fashioned five & dime general store of years ago. Smaller exhibits change throughout the year, guaranteeing you are likely to see something new and fun on each of your visits.

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Lunch & Dinner is served 7 Days (from 11:30am)
Breakfast is served on Saturdays & Sundays only (from 7:30am)

In all, the National Christmas Center encompasses 20,000 square feet of displays that remind you of what Christmas is all about. The walk through the interactive "Tudor Town" is a stroll down memory lane that leads you to the sleepy little town of Bethlehem on that fateful night.

What you'll see on your visit to the National Christmas Center is only a small portion of the amazing life-long collection of the museum's curator, Jim Morrison. Widely known and considered a world-wide authority on Christmas, Mr. Morrison calls thousands of Christmas toys, books, costumes, and displays his own so that it is only possible to showcase a very small portion at any given time.

Make no mistake, the National Christmas Center will be far more than you ever expected. Still bedazzled by this marvelous yuletide collection, you'll want to explore the center's very special Christmas store. Hand-carved wooden figurines from the Erzgebirge region of Germany celebrate old-world European Christmases while died-in-the-wool American hand-made carolers remind you how the Christmas holiday has equally become an inseparable part of the American landscape. The huge collection of books, some hard to find, is always a time-stealer for me. Call 717-442-1721 for hours. For reservations for 20 or more, call 717-768-8400 ext. 221.

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Intercourse Canning (Cont'd From Page 35)

Traveling from the west entering the village of Intercourse, turn right off Route 340 (the Old Philadelphia Pike) onto Center Street. The Canning Company will be just ahead. Store hours are Monday through Saturday 9:30am to 5:00pm. Sundays from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Visit www.intercoursecanning.com for complete details.

So, if you are putting food in jars, why do you call it "canning?"

In 1795, while engaged in military pursuits, Napoleon offered a cash prize to anyone who could find a way to preserve foods for his troops. A French man named Nicholas Appert found a way to preserve food in jars, sterilized and sealed with pitch. By 1804, he had a vacuum-packing plant up and running. This process was a closely guarded military secret, but by 1810 a Mr. Peter Durand of England had a patent for tin-plated iron to use in "canning." It has been verified that canned rations were on the battlefield at Waterloo. In 1812, a small plant in New York produced hermetically sealed oysters, meats, fruits and vegetables, all in cans. Durand introduced his can top to America in 1818. Later, a man named Henry Evans patented a machine that made the tin cans, increasing production capabilities from 5-6 cans per hour to 50-60. Then, finally, in 1858 the now famous American icon John Mason invented the glass jar for home canning. From that point on "canned" food was found in both tins and jars, and that is why we put canned food in jars today!

Deadline: **December 31st, 2012**

Calling All Photographers!

2012 Amish Country News Photo Contest

Ours is one of the most photographed areas in the world. With so much beauty and variety around us, it's no wonder! If you think you've got a great photo, why not send it to us? The winner will recieve free tour and attraction tickets. In addition, you will see your photo in the pages of ***Amish Country News!*** Other prizes will also go to the first, second, and third runners-up.

All submitted photos become the property of ***Amish Country News*** and the Amish Experience. Photos may also be used in upcoming issues, in other publications, and/or for other promotional purposes.

Photos will be judged on quality, color, subject matter, etc. Keep in mind that these photos are for publication, cannot be returned, and should depict a scene, aspect, event, or activity typical to Lancaster or the Pennsylvania Dutch Country region.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: December 31st, 2012

We will accept photos via email, and request that no more than 10 photos by the same person be submitted, so pick your best! Each photo submitted should contain the name, address, phone # and email address of the photographer, so they can be contacted. Any details on the location, date, or subject matter of the photograph should be included.

To enter, send photos in .jpg or .tiff format to: editor@amishnews.com (Please put "2012 photo contest" in the subject line)

"100 Years of Chevrolet" at the Antique Auto Museum of Hershey

by Clinton Martin

Hershey is lots more than Chocolate! Take a visit to the Antique Auto Museum of Hershey for just one of the reasons why.

The Museum launches its Chevrolet Centennial Exhibit on June 15th, which means that in addition to the Museum's normal line up of amazing classics, there will be special fine art displays and "automobilia" on display to impress both the car enthusiast and followers of the Bow Tie Brand alike. Over 25 great Chevys will be helping to tell the American story of how the Chevrolet has become synonymous with baseball and apple pie for over 100 years.

Peter Maier, the world renowned fine artist, will have two of his life-sized Corvette Concept Car paintings on display, and you will also be able to see some of artist David Synder's Chevrolet art work throughout the Museum. Really cool Chevrolet "automobilia" from collectors Pinky Randall and Ron Smith includes dealer recognition awards, billboard and magazine advertisements, customer promotional items and period TV commercials.

Finally, you'll also want to mark your calendars for a return trip to the museum to visit the All-Chevrolet Car Show on the Museum grounds Sunday, July 22nd. This show will be open to anything and everything Chevrolet and promises to be a great day.

Visit www.AACAMuseum.org for details.

Highlights of the Exhibit:

- 1912 Little
- 1915 Royal Mail Roadster
- 1918 V-8 Touring
- 1935 The First Suburban
- 1954 Corvette
- 1961 Impala SS
- 1963 Impala SS (50 millionth)
- 1970 Chevelle LS-6
- Earnhardt Corvette…owned by Lance Miller
- Reeses' Nascar…owned by the Hershey Company

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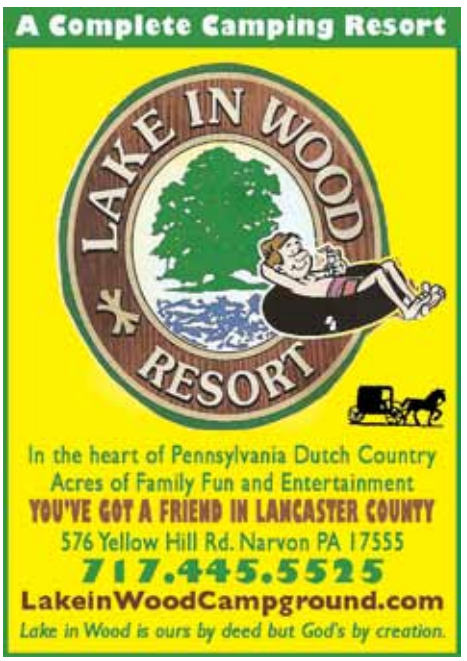
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Marvelous Doors to Our Past

by Brad Igou

Before you stand four doors. Each one opened will take you to a very special world, a world alive with history and rich in heritage. The first promises a look at a rare monastic community of the 1700's. The next surrounds you with steam engines and train cars from another time. The third immerses you in the lives of the Pennsylvania Germans. And the last lets you explore an early American iron furnace where cannon shot was made for General Washington's Revolutionary army.

How fortunate are we that these doors to four very different eras of America's past can be found right here in the heart of Amish Country!

• Ephrata Cloister

Ephrata Cloister

Just off Route 272 north of Lancaster is what I consider to be a magical environment. Here is a peace and tranquility that transport us back in time to an unusual religious community, one of America's oldest, with a rich heritage of unique music, art, and architecture.

The Ephrata Cloister was founded in 1732 by German settlers seeking spiritual goals rather than earthly rewards. Gathered in unique European style buildings, the community consisted of celibate Brothers and Sisters, and a married congregation of families. At its zenith in the 1740s and 1750s, about 300 members worked and worshiped at the Cloister.

The community became known for its self-composed acappella music, Germanic calligraphy known as Frakturschriften, and the complete publishing center which included a paper mill, printing office, and book bindery. Today, it has been rightfully named a National Historic Landmark and you'll find nothing like this anywhere.

Luckily, nine original buildings survive. The striking Saal, or Meetinghouse, is a half-timbered building constructed in 1741 as a worship hall for Householders. Hearing the ancient community's hymns sung here is an unforgettable experience. When the Sisterhood moved into the adjoining building, they took control of this Meetinghouse. Here, Sisters worshiped each midnight while the Brothers gathered in their own Saal.

A stroll up to the Mount Zion Cemetery brings to mind the time when the Cloister served as a temporary hospital during the Revolutionary War in 1777-1778. A large monument marks the traditional location of the mass grave of soldiers. Although legend said that hundreds of soldiers died at the Cloister, official records can only account for about 60 men.

There are many special events and activities held at the Cloister, from Spring concerts recreating the beautiful hymns to special Christmas tours in season. It is especially at these times, with costumed volunteers escorting visitors by candlelight, that this singularly unique community comes to life.

• Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

Strasburg is known as "Traintown" for good reasons. One is the massive museum housing more than 100 locomotives and vintage railroad cars.

The original core of the collection was assembled by the Pennsylvania Railroad for the 1939-1940 New York World's Fair and its "Parade of Locomotives." When the Fair ended, the Railroad continued to add to the collection. In 1972, the State broke ground on the museum, ideally situated adjacent to the Strasburg Rail Road, the oldest continuously operated short-line railroad in the United States.

The original Museum exhibit hall's interior resembled an early train shed of circa 1860 and measured some 320 by 150 feet. In 1995, as one of the event highlights commemorating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the museum opened a new addition which doubled the length of the exhibit hall to 640 feet. The new award-winning addition is modeled after a glass-roofed train shed of the early 20th century. It features some 46 pieces of locomotives and rolling stock on five different tracks.

In addition to the locomotives and rolling stock, the Museum displays an extensive collection of railroad objects including lanterns, china, tools and accessories, clocks, watches and minutia that accumulates around railroads and rail yards. Outside, a number of additional locomotives occupy a five and a half acre yard, centered around an operational 1928 Reading Railroad turntable.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvaina

Currently there is a special exhibit at the museum, the "Role of Railroads in Pennsylvania During the Civil War." From supplying the armies with munitions and food to transporting troops, prisoners and communications, the Civil War was the first war in which railroads were a major factor.

• Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

Finally, in the remaining space, I'd like It really does "take a village" to experience early Pennsylvania German life, and this is the largest museum of its kind in the country. I like to call it our Pennsylvania "Williamsburg," since it truly is a living history village and farm that collects, preserves, and interprets the culture of the Pennsylvania German rural community from 1740 to 1940.

When brothers Henry Kinzer Landis and George Diller Landis opened the museum in 1925 at their Landis Valley residence, the area had been a small Pennsylvania German settlement since the mid 1800s. Later, with the State's involvement, the "village" expanded dramatically. Some of the original buildings were seen by moviegoers during the Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum filming of the Oprah Winfrey produced movie BELOVED.

Volunteers and special events, demonstrations, and activities bring the 100-acre village to life throughout the year. You can truly experience local 18th and 19th century village and farm life in one visit.

Here are a few of my favorite stops….

❒ **LOG FARM** - The Settler's Farm recreates the type of farmstead which a typical German settler's family would have established in the mid-I8th century. It consists of a cluster of buildings surrounded by fields, an apple and pear orchard, and a meadow. The farm buildings include a log house, log barn, stone spring house, pig sty, hay barrack, sheep shed, and combination bake oven- smokehouse. The log house consists of two rooms downstairs, the "küche" or kitchen with a massive fireplace for cooking and heating, and the "stube" or living room, which is actually a combined working, sleeping, and family room.

❒ **BLACKSMITH SHOP** - The blacksmith was an indispensable man in the early rural community, producing nearly all the ironwork needed before the advent of factory-produced wares in the mid-19th century… farm implements, cooking utensils, nails, door hinges, locks, knives, axes, spinning wheel cranks… in short, objects which touched the lives of every member of the community.

❒ **TAVERN** - As toll roads and turnpikes developed in Pennsylvania in the 18th and 19th centuries, the tavern business flourished. By

Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum

1840, there were sixty-two inns between Lancaster and Philadelphia, about one to the mile. This was the place where news was exchanged between the locals and strangers in transit and where business deals were initiated and consummated over good, hot food and liberal "spirits." It was also the only place where most "back country" Americans could bring themselves relatively up to date on what was going on in the vast nation they were helping to build.

❒ **GUN EXHIBIT** - Lancaster County was the home of one of the most famous weapons in American history -- the legendary Pennsylvania long rifle. Often called the Kentucky rifle despite its place of origin, it was developed by local craftsmen working in small shops during the mid-1700's. This year a landmark exhibit, "The Golden Age of an American Art Form: The Lancaster Long Rifle" is open in the museum's Visitor Center. The exhibit pulls together over 60 long rifles, some never before seen by the public.

Finally, lest you think the folks at Landis Valley Village & Farm Museum are focused only on the past, try out their new cell phone tour. Now you can "Dial and Discover" history by using your cell phone as you tour to access information that was not present before to the visitor.

• Cornwall Iron Furnace •

Admittedly, an iron furnace may not be high on your list of things to see in Amish Country. So let me encourage you to make a visit here. It's just a few minutes away from the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire, yet often overlooked.

Cornwall Iron Furnace is part of a National Historic Landmark District and Robert Vogel of the Smithsonian Institution described it thus… "With the exception of a mere handful of similar preservations in Sweden and Germany, I doubt that anywhere else in the world is there a 19th century iron furnace complex with the degree of historical integrity to be found at Cornwall."

Cornwall Furnace is indeed a unique survivor of the early American iron industry. Originally built by Peter Grubb in 1742, the furnace underwent extensive renovations in 1856-57 under its subsequent owners, the Coleman family, and finally closed in 1883. It is this mid-19th century ironmaking complex which survives today.

Because of the importance of the furnace, around it developed villages, artisans' shops, stores, schools, churches, and the home of a wealthy ironmaster. All of the raw materials necessary for the smelting process — iron ore, limestone and wood for charcoal — were found in this self contained iron plantation. Cornwall Iron Furnace, the only surviving intact charcoal cold blast furnace in the Western Hemisphere, attests to the once great iron industry that flourished in south central Pennsylvania. The buildings in themselves are unique and beautiful to look at, built in a Gothic Revival architectural style. The elegant façade and design details of the furnace building itself are a testimony to the success and refined taste of its owners. Charcoal, iron ore, and limestone were introduced into the furnace in the charging area on the upper level. The blast equipment, which supplied air to the furnace, is located on the next lower level. This is believed to be the sole surviving example of this type of machinery. The casting room is where molten iron flowed out of the furnace and cast into pig iron or cast iron products. Some of the other buildings on this "iron plantation" include the Roasting Oven, Blacksmith Shop, Wagon Shop, Stable, Manager's House, Paymaster's Office, Ironmaster's Mansion, and the quaint "Abattoir" that served as smokehouse and butcher shop for the Cornwall estate. Company housing was made available to miners and furnace workers. Nearby Minersville was started in 1865 and has actually been occupied continuously. Today the houses are private residences, and may be seen along Boyd Street. You can also observe the open pit mine from here. Cornwall Ore Banks was one of the world's greatest iron ore deposits. More than 100 million tons were extracted between 1730 and 1973. The depth of the open pit reached five hundred feet below the surface.

• Exploring Our Heritage •

As you can see, I really hate to call these places museums, for that conjures up images of box-like rooms filled glass display cases and lots to read. Our four State Museums here in Amish Country are immersive places, where you can walk down the streets of a village, hear hymns sung as they were centuries ago, see how iron was forged, and climb aboard a massive locomotive. To me, history is about people and stories from our past. Each of these museums invites you to conjure up visions of people and places long ago like very few that I have visited.

These museums have a special admission offer available exclusively through Amish Country News to make it even more affordable to unlock their doors of wonder and discovery. Use your key more than once. You will add memorable layers to your stay with us in Amish Country.

Cornwall Iron Furnace

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632 West Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522
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Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania
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Amish in the Media **(Continued from Pg. 22)**

children to leave the community. Nonetheless, Brennan does note that over 85% join the faith. "It's a rational way to help teens make an informed decision as to whether to be baptized as adults."

Learning that Levi had traveled to Washington, D.C. from Lancaster, Brennan and Booth arrive at an apartment where Amish youth are engaged in spirited partying, forcing Brennan to disapprovingly scold, "This is not in the proper spirit of rumspringa!"

They next visit Levi's parents and, looking in his bedroom, find a box of white stones and black pebbles. Back at the lab, someone figures out there are 88 stones, and they form a "practice piano keyboard." Booth returns to track down a piano teacher in the small town, and discovers she was secretly teaching Levi, who to her was clearly a musical prodigy.

As the investigation continues, the bones show Levi died in a fall from the balcony where he was living in D.C., and that Levi's hand had been crushed prior to the fall by the lid of a piano.

One by one the suspects are eliminated ---- the father, students at the music conservatory, and the brother of Levi's girlfriend. Fingerprints prove Levi smashed his own hand, perhaps to put an end to his music career before returning home?

We eventually learn (spoiler alert!) that Levi had discovered a thief in the apartment, a struggle ensued, with Levi falling to his death. After the horrible accident, the thief put the body on the railroad tracks to scatter the remains.

Brennan and Booth take a DVD of Levi at the piano to Levi's parents. At first the parents feel they should not watch the video. They change their minds and, in the emotional conclusion, watch as their son masterfully plays the piano. When the beautiful music concludes, Levi looks into the camera and smiles.

"The Outsiders" and "The Plain in the Prodigy," made 20 years apart, deploy the Amish as a plot device in very different ways. The shows get some things right and some things wrong. Nonetheless, they point to our continued fascination and often incorrect stereotypes about the Plain people.

Continuing in July, more Amish in stories where you might least expect them. I welcome your comments and your favorite examples of Amish in unlikely film or TV situations at editor@amishnews.com

A Celtic Celebration Like No Other...
Music, Dance, Foods and Culture of the Irish & Scottish

Special to Amish Country News

This June 22, 23, and 24, the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire will host the 14th annual Celtic Fling and Highland Games celebrating the traditions, and cultures of the Celtic nations. Held on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire in northern Lancaster County, there's plenty o'plaid and green... and everything Celtic during one of the largest and fastest growing festivals of its kind.

Whether you were to take the high road and I'd take the low road, we'd be hard-pressed to uncover a music festival, a dance competition, a sporting event, a cultural celebration, a food fest, and an arts and crafts show on a scale of the Fling, and, all in one place for just one ticket!

A Music Fest for the Ages

For 13 years the best in Celtic entertainment has been the trademark of the Fling and this year will be no different as both traditional and modern Scottish and Irish performers appear non-stop across eight stages throughout the day Saturday and Sunday. It's some pre-party party Friday night as the festivities begin under the stars with a rousing Celtic Rock Concert featuring from Ireland, **The Young Dubliners**, and from the Highlands of Scotland, **Albannach**. Hearty food and drink, including the ales you would expect to quaff, are available from Sir William's Hall and the Faire's own Swashbuckler Brew Pub.

Saturday and Sunday's music fest features many talented Celtic instrumentalists and several Celtic rock, pop, and folk bands including the non-stop energy of the four fiddles from **Scythian** and returning favorites **Barleyjuice**, **Cutthroat Shamrock** and **The Rogues**. It's a rare mix of traditional and upbeat as peaceful sounds of violins, fiddles, and harps serenade you while not far away the rollicking sounds of Celtic folk rock fill the air. You won't be able to keep your laughter in when the comedic talents of **The Tartan Terrors** take the stage to intermingle joke after joke from across the seas with their singing, playing and storytelling.

Nothing Less Than an Irish Dance Extravaganza

Saturday, June 23 features the eighth annual Celtic Fling Feis. The Feis showcases the high-stepping talents of 1,000 dance competitors including youthful girls and boys, along with adult women and men ranging from beginner to champion. Competitions include traditional hard shoe and captivating elegant soft shoe jigs in displays of authentic Irish dance being practiced today as it was by the dance masters in 18th century rural Ireland. The Celtic Fling Feis is the only officially sanctioned Feis in Central PA.

Athletics Scottish Style

The Celtic Fling's Highland Games, officially sanctioned by the Mid-Atlantic Scottish Athletics Association, add to the thrill of Saturday's competitions. Pre-registered participants – both men and women – compete in the Scottish Hammer, the Sheaf Toss, the Clachneart or "Stone of Strength", and impressive Caber Toss where an 18-foot tree trunk weighing up to 150 pounds is tossed from end to end. The athlete with the best overall combined performance earns the title "Athlete of the Day" and an automatic berth in the East Coast Championships.

Want to give it a try? Sunday features interactive Highland Games where you can learn to toss a caber with the best of them.

The Grace of Tradition

The Fling has always showcased a cornucopia of Celtic antiquity, culture and tradition. Historians, storytellers, re-enactors and traditional Celtic musicians fill both days. A gathering of the Clans offers the chance to explore clan and family histories. The Border collies are put through their paces once again, responding to their master's whistle calls to gather a flock of sheep just as it's been done for centuries throughout the British Isles.

Arts and Crafts and Foods and Drink

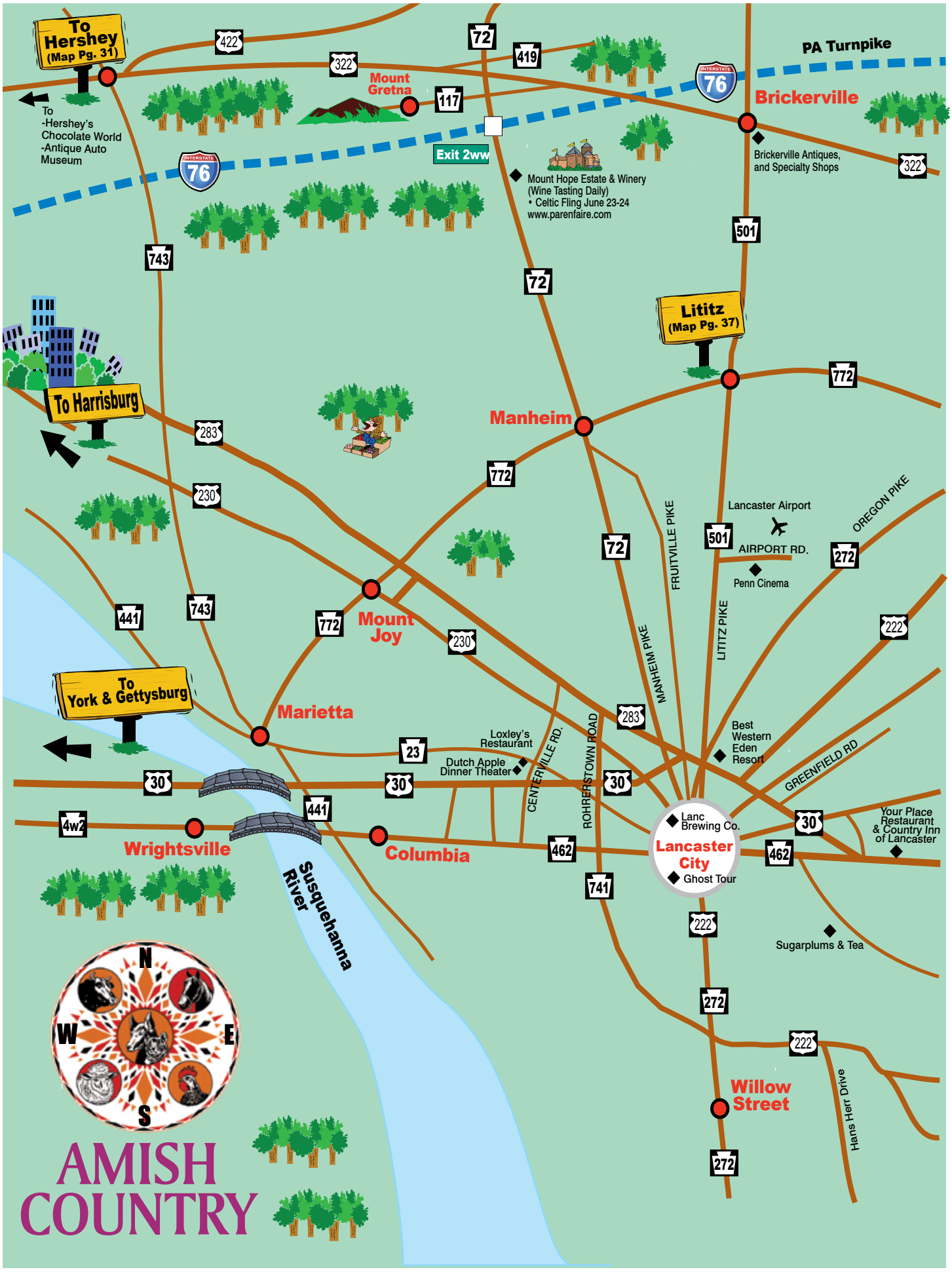
The Celtic Fling's 23 feast kitchens offer a long menu of authentic foods that originated centuries ago, including corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, fish 'n' chips, and the ever popular Scotch Egg just to name a few.

Quench your thirst with a variety of handcrafted ales from the Swashbuckler Brewery, the Faire's micro-brewery located on the festival grounds. The four house ales cover a delicious assortment of hops, malts, and barley. Those who prefer wine will find award winning Mount Hope Wines for both sampling and sale, featuring a specialty bottled Honey Mead.

In addition to over 100 resident Renaissance Faire shops, the Celtic Fling is home to dozens of guest artisans and food merchants offering an assortment of edibles such as gourmet cupcakes and other baked delicacies, homemade candies, fresh fruits, and more. You'll also find a variety of collectibles from fine oil paintings, handcrafted jewelry and stained glass to Scottish tartans, and Celtic souvenirs.

Gates opens for Friday's concert at 5:30. Tickets are $24.95 at the gate. One-day admission to Saturday or Sunday's 11am to 10pm festivities is $26.95 for adults and $10.95 for children ages 5 to 11. Thrifty festival-goers can save money by purchasing Fling tickets in advance online or with a super valued two-day pass. Festival details, performer biographies and click-to-print advance tickets can be purchased at PaRenFaire.com or by calling (717) 665-7021.

Come early and stay late for a festival you'll long remember. Head north from Lancaster on Route 72 to the grounds of the PA Renaissance Faire, one-half mile South of PA Turnpike Exit 266, 14 miles East of Hershey and 15 miles North of Lancaster.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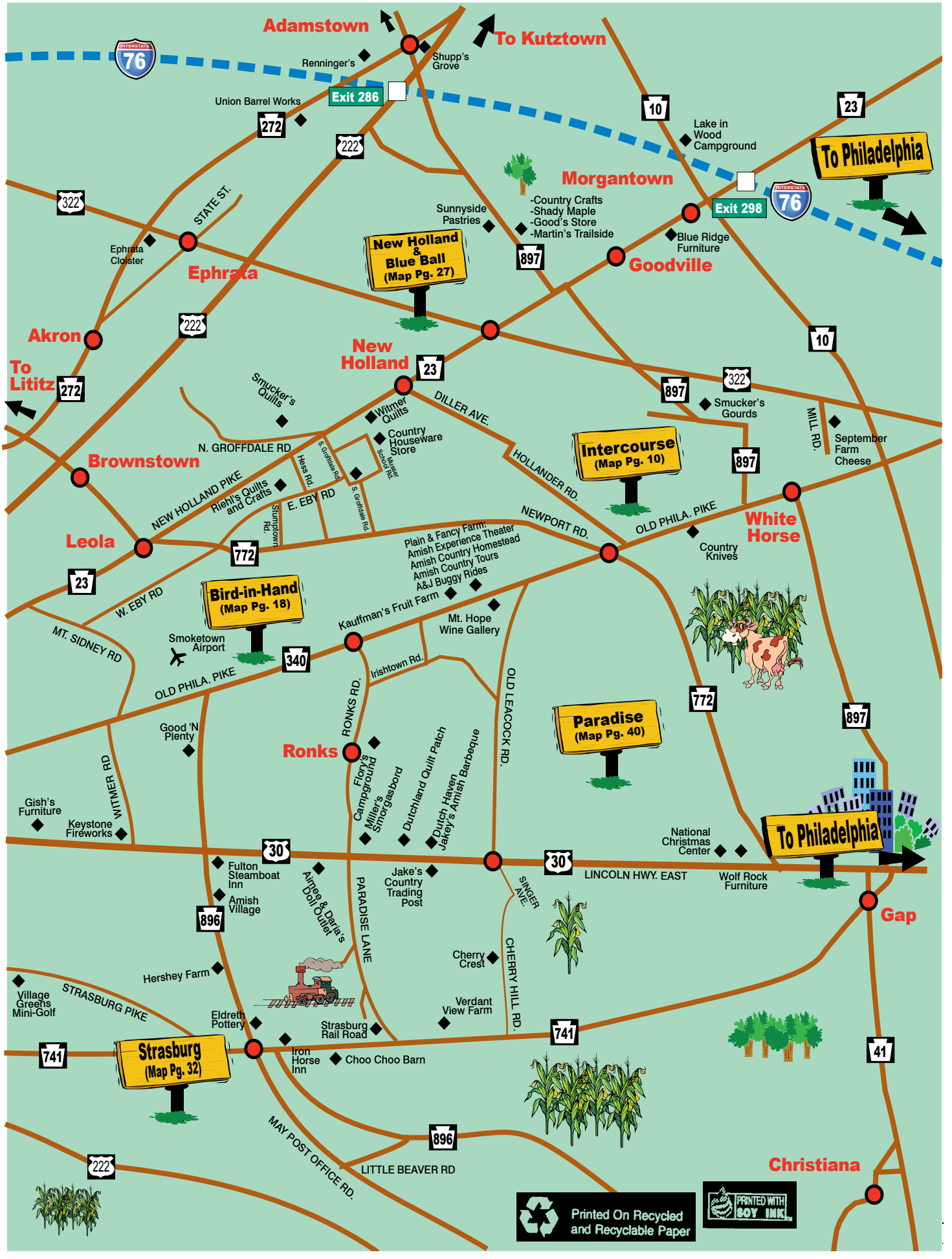
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Renninger's
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-Shady Maple
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Goodville
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Witmer Quilts
Country Houseware Store
DILLER AVE.
Smucker's Gourds
MILL RD.
September Farm Cheese
N. GROFFDALE RD
Brownstown
Hess Rd.
S. Groffdale Rd.
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NEW HOLLAND PIKE
Riehl's Quilts and Crafts
E. EBY RD
Stumptown Rd.
NEWPORT RD.
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BELOW: A new home means a new façade for Intercourse Canning Company.

VIP in Amish Country…

by Clinton Martin

VIP is often used to refer to people just out of our reach; we know of them, but can't seem to get close. Well, in Amish Country VIP has a very different meaning. No flashing cameras, red carpets, limos, or paparazzi. It's just you, the quaint country sounds of the Amish countryside, maybe a few fireflies offering "mood lighting" and the crisp clip-clopping of a horse's hooves traversing quiet back roads. About as close as you get to a red carpet on this VIP adventure is a hand-forged hundred-year-old loom worked by the deft hands of a dedicated Amish family.

This VIP is the Visit-In-Person tours offered only by the Amish Experience at Plain & Fancy Farm. Three hour tours running evenings, Monday through Friday, take a maximum of 14 guests on an unforgettable excursion into the Amish community far beyond the immediately visible bake shops, quilt stands, and souvenir shanties one need not look hard to discover.

Visitors experience an amazing meet & greet journey to three different Amish properties. Perhaps the quintessential Amish experience is an Amish dairy farm at milking time. The tour arrives at milking time, so you meet the family at work collecting milk. If you've visions of a metal pail being filled slowly by hand, squirt by squirt, you're not yet a VIP! You'll have to take the tour to learn how the blend of technology and simplicity is carefully woven together in daily operation of an Amish dairy farm.

Next is an Amish family business, an important contrast to the Amish dairy farm. Nearly half of our Amish make their living at something other than farming. The types of businesses are extremely varied, from blacksmithing, welding, and manufacturing, to weaving and even hydroponic green-housing. You will come to know the Amish as businessmen, and gain insight into the family's story -- how the business got started, why it is a good fit for the family, and how it fits into their values.

The final stop is at an Amish family home. The simplest part of the tour is the most memorable. Your small group is invited into an Amish family home for a time of visiting. Visiting, in this case, is a beloved Amish verb. A time of light-hearted discussion about wherever the group's musings might lead, perhaps about children, work, play, or just everyday life.

As the tour departs, you have seen and "felt" more of the true Amish Country than have most locals, coming to see the Amish as real, everyday people. Some are farmers. Some own businesses. All place family at the highest of their priorities. Your VIP Tour allows the insight into this culture, seemingly so different than what we are used to, yet, so familiar to us all in so many ways.

Reservations are required. Book online at AmishExperience.com, by phone at 717-768-8400 ext. 210, or in person at the Amish Experience on Rte 340 between Bird-in-Hand and Intercourse.

Union Barrel Works

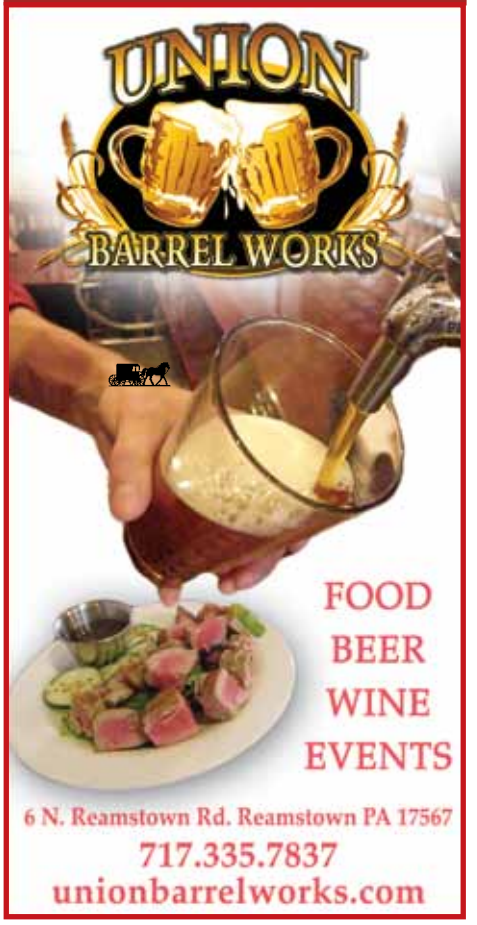
by Clinton Martin

Thousands of refreshing craft brews quaffed, countless bowls of soup sipped dry, and enough "cleansed" plates to stretch from one side of Amish Country to the other – measure five years of success at Union Barrel Works in Reamstown. When brewmaster and owner Tom Rupp bought an old, worn-out brick building on the square in little Reamstown PA, most locals probably thought he was soon to open the next "former" use for the stately, yet tired town landmark.

To the contrary, revitalization was the word with the opening of a cutting edge brew-pub with great old-world charm. Tom invites you to celebrate the Work's fifth anniversary with new features for his delicious and unique food line, crisp and clean lagers and ales, and an atmosphere unmatched by other "hop houses" in the area.

If you'd like my recommendation, try pairing the wild boar sausages with a side of warm soft pretzels and spicy mustard. Add a generous pour of UBW's Pale Ale.

Finding your way to Union Barrel Works is easy. Turn off Route 272 North of Lancaster between Ephrata and Adamstown onto W. Church St. The parking area is well-marked. UBW is open every day except Monday.



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Published by Dutchland Tours Inc.

Brad Igou • Editor-in-Chief
brad@amishnews.com

Clinton Martin • Director: Sales & Marketing
clinton@amishnews.com

Kirk Simpson • Graphic Designer

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Clinton Martin (717) 768-8400 ext. 217.

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Publisher's Message

Photo by Kathleen Popola

by Brad Igou

Why, you might ask, am I writing about New York City in our Towns and Villages issue? I actually travel to NYC several times a year. A few weeks ago, I hopped on a bus for the Big Apple to see two very different shows --- "War Horse" at Lincoln Center and "Newsies" on Broadway. Rarely have I been moved or entertained as much as I was, respectively, by this play and musical.

It was a gorgeous spring day, so I spent some time at Bryant Park, ate in the glorious space at Grand Central Station, and strolled Central Park where, it seemed, all of the urban dwellers had come to enjoy the splendid weather.

Just as I anticipate my first view of the New York skyline from the right side of the bus somewhere in New Jersey, so too do I look forward on my return to the magnificent view of Amish Country as I come over the hill at Gap on Route 30. There spread before me is the beautiful patchwork of farmland, and I almost feel the tension and "busyness" of the city disappear as I breathe in our country peacefulness with a quiet sigh.

In the 1955 Broadway musical PLAIN AND FANCY, a city couple comes to Bird-in-Hand, and zany things ensue as the Plain folk and the fancy city slickers are thrown together. The song "City Mouse, Country Mouse" humorously sums up the two sides…

City mouse, city mouse, full of care,
What dress to buy, what dress to wear?
Country mouse, country mouse, worries not,
She wears the only one she's got.
City mouse, city mouse, fuss and fret,
What should she be, blond or brunette?
Country mouse reckons a different way,
She's happy if it don't turn gray.

It puzzles me that the debate between urban and rural life rages on. For students discussing these polar opposites, the National Geographic website encourages them to list the pluses and minuses of both lifestyles as they explore the webcams of Prince Edward Island and Times Square. I'm sure if we had a webcam, Amish Country would be on the list.

I always have to chuckle when I see students from the city covering their noses in disgust when our farmers are spreading manure. So much for fresh country air! Of course, I have a similar reaction after passing through the Holland Tunnel and breathing in exhaust fumes the rest of the day. City mouse, country mouse!

It can be difficult to get an inner sense of a metropolitan city. But here in Amish Country, our small towns and villages openly offer their own unique spins on country life. From towns like Lititz, villages like Intercourse, or historic Lancaster City, each has a sense of place, a character that is special. People are more likely to know their neighbors, and visitors more likely to interact with them.

I can buy a whoopie pie at an Amish roadside stand on the way to a concert by the Lancaster Symphony. And where else can I leave a high tech show like the jaw-droppers at Sight & Sound, only to exit the parking lot to find my car behind a horse-and-buggy?

It's true --- I like to get my "fix" of the big city from time to time. But I am always glad to come home. I probably enjoy my country environment, often taken for granted, even more after a trip to the city. You might say "I Love New York" because it helps me to better appreciate what I have around me every day. So if you are a city dweller coming to Amish Country to "get away," welcome to my world. It's a very special place… and so is yours.

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